



# Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

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**THE BATTLE OF CAMDEN** - new pastel by Pamela Patrick White – shows Patriot Gen. “Baron” Johannes DeKalb, leading his Maryland and Delaware Continentals in the hand-to-hand combat near the end of the early morning of August 16, 1780 at the Battle of Camden, near Gum Swamp.

*Baron de Kalb had been unhorsed and was fighting on foot, bleeding now from several wounds...Bullets, bayonets, and sabers had felled him.*

*For an hour or more, this bare 600 fought off all attacks, charged with bayonet, re-formed, charged again, rallying about de Kalb’s vast figure as about a standard. Cornwallis called off much of the pursuit of the broken militia, and threw the bulk of his force on the stubborn Continentals. Then de Kalb was down, out of action at last with his eleventh wound of the day. Tarleton’s Legion charged again and the Delawares and the Marylanders were broken at last.*

Thus wrote William Allman at Hillsborough, North Carolina, on September 20, 1780. Allman, a soldier in Colonel Subblefields Regiment of Virginia Patriot Militia, was wounded at the Battle of Camden, taken prisoner, and managed to escape. Like many others from General Horatio Gates’ “grand army,” he rejoined his commander at Hillsborough after abandoning de Kalb and his men just north of Gum Swamp.

In executing her newest work, “The Battle of Camden,” well-known historical artist Pamela Patrick White has captured the moment during the action when the British 33<sup>rd</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Regiments are charging with bayonets affixed de Kalb and the Continentals. Unbeknownst to him, Gen. Gates and 1,800 North Carolina and Virginia militia have fled the field, leaving a gapping hole in the battle line that will enable the British to eventually envelop the “bare 600” and claim the biggest battle win of the war. It’s a powerful scene, befitting of the valiant German, who succumbed to his wounds three days later in the name of American Liberty. (more on page 3)

**Joanna B. Craig**

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## Publisher's Notes

There are two relatively new, exciting and underutilized tools that are available to laymen who want to make an effort in coordination with professional historians and military archaeologists to materially advance the study and understanding of the Revolutionary War. First, institute collectors' surveys of metallic objects recovered by the tens of thousands since the 1960s from battlefields starting with the advent of inexpensive transistorized metal detectors. These surveys use modern GIS mapping technology, inexpensive GPS receivers and skilled artifact identification to catalog and place prior-recovered artifacts on the ground. Even though not recovered with the precision and discipline of modern archaeology, the distribution patterns, and the type of artifact give important data to locate and place tactical events on the ground. This inexpensive, but comprehensive battlefield archaeology system is being utilized by the Battle of Camden committee and has been finely honed in New Jersey by the BRAVO group. It garners data over a wider geographic area than could be otherwise afforded with traditional battlefield archaeology, recovers datapoints from iron artifacts rapidly decomposing, and recovers datapoints from areas disturbed by construction. Time is of the essence before those with data forget or die with their knowledge. It takes trust, cooperation and a systematic approach to locate the collectors and garner their data. Cooperation and coordination with the state military archaeologists is essential, who must develop a minimal GIS budget, set data acquisition protocols, approach the collector community with a positive attitude and develop mutual respect, holding training and coordinating volunteers.

Second, Revolutionary War reenactors now have the numbers, skill and desire to learn and are now able to reproduce realistic troop size, clothing, command, weaponry and movements sometimes even on the actual battlefields. Again, using the Battle of Camden study as an example, the old widely-repeated fact that swamps on both flanks anchored the American lines is simply impossible with the numbers of troops, the geography of the actual battlefield and the distribution of recovered artifacts. Recreation of battle scenarios, especially on the actual battlefields, is useful to test hypothesis such as explaining the brilliance of Gen. Daniel Morgan's disposition of his troops at the Battle of Cowpens. To learn from reenacting, knowledgeable historians must carefully script the scenarios, hypothesis developed, proof points established, and personnel assigned to measure and report the results. Can a cannonade at Charleston be heard in the backcountry...could Andrew Jackson see the Battle of Hobkirk Hill from the Camden Jail...did Gen. Daniel Morgan really "hide" his Continentals on the third line from Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton mounted on the Green River Road....could British Lt. McPherson really see Lord Rawdon's campfires at the High Hills of the Santee from Fort Motte....and so forth. The organizers of reenactments need to add historians, data collectors and recorders to set up meaningful historic experiments to advance knowledge and understanding as when this community corroborates with a Hollywood producer.

SCAR attended well-staged and colorful 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative events at Hanging Rock. Our hat's off to Rangers Kirk Johnson, Laura Ledford and the organizers and presenters at these commemorations.

## Planning Stages

SCAR and friends have organized a Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Roundtable for fellowship and sharing of research on the Revolutionary War. We are planning an open meeting at the McCelvey Center in York, SC in 2006 and ask that you stay tuned for an invitation to attend our roundtable.

**Charles B. Baxley.....publisher**  
**David P. Reuwer.....editor**  
**Werner Willis.....artist**

*Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* is dedicated to the study of the War for American Independence in the Southern Department from 1760 to 1789. We facilitate the exchange of information on the Southern Campaigns' Revolutionary War sites, their location, preservation, historic signage, interpretation, artifacts, and archaeology as well as the personalities, military tactics, units, logistics, strategy, and the political leadership of the state. We highlight professionals and amateurs actively engaged in Revolutionary War research, preservation and interpretation to encourage an active exchange of information. All are invited to submit articles, pictures, documents, events and suggestions. Please help us obtain site information from the dusty archive files, the archaeology departments, and knowledge base of local historians, property owners and artifact collectors. We feature battles and skirmishes, documents, maps, artifacts, Internet links, and other stories.

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SCAR is also working with Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site to plan a world-class symposium and battlefield tours on Gen. Nathanael Greene April 20-21, 2006 in conjunction with the celebration of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. Tentatively scheduled speakers include noted Greene biographer, Terry Golway, Greene papers editor, Dennis Conrad, Professor Robert M. Calhoon, and Professor Larry Babits, all noted Nathanael Greene scholars, who will speak on their latest research and publications. You will also have an opportunity to walk the Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs Battlefields with knowledgeable guides. Your thoughts and input on both projects are invited.

## **Preservation**

In South Carolina, the Department of Transportation is working on replacing several bridges at important Revolutionary War battlefield and cultural sites. Besides the bridges over the Broad River at Fish Dam Ford and for the southbound US Highway 17 bridge over the North Santee River at Hopsewee Plantation, SC DOT is designing replacement of the SC Highway 14 (Landrum Road) bridge over the Pacolet River in upper Spartanburg County. This bridge is near the site of the Battle of Earle's Ford. SCAR needs any information you may have about the locations of Earle's Fort and Earle's Ford and the battles and camps there. SCAR is discussing these projects with the SC DOT environmental management office, which is charged by law to protect vital historic and cultural resources. Information of relic recoveries from the area, plats, maps, or documents locating the battle may provide the basis for a professional archaeological survey of the site and fund appropriate marking and interpretation.

Battlefield and historic structures and sites' preservation is usually initiated and led by local groups. Have you worked on locating, preserving, and marking your favorite Revolutionary War cultural treasure? Your help is critical to identify and mark local Revolutionary War sites, as we have irrevocably lost many of the Revolutionary War sites' historic context by over-development. Civic groups may sponsor appropriate roadside historic markers and signed driving or walking tours. Spreading "on the ground" knowledge is the most powerful force we have to build public awareness and influence to encourage protective stewardship of these sites entrusted to our generation. We have over 230 Revolutionary War battle and skirmish sites to document in South Carolina alone...then there is also Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. We need your help! Even the over-built sites can still be appropriately marked and interpreted.

## **SCAR Corps of Discovery – Searching for sites.**

SCAR is planning expeditions to Augusta, Georgia area forts with sites of Forts Moore (Beech Island, SC) and Galphin (Silver Bluff, SC), we continue our research on locating Cary's Fort in Lugoff, SC, to find Commodore Alexander Gillon's and Col. William Thomson's graves and the location of Belleville Plantation and Fort in Calhoun County, SC, to locate Gen. Morgan's camp on Grindol Shoals of the Pacolet River in Cherokee County, SC, the 2d Battle of Cedar Spring sites and Gowen's Old Fort in Spartanburg County, and to plan a trip into the Appalachian Mountains to trace the routes of march and battlesites of the various Patriot campaigns against the Cherokee Nation. Tell us about your research and trips to discover our Revolutionary War heritage.

**CBB ★**

## **Artist Pamela Patrick White – “The Battle of Camden”**

**by Joanna B. Craig**

Pamela Patrick White recognizes the “feel” of 18th century warfare from years of re-enacting. She has been a re-enactor since 1986, currently as a Revolutionary War-era fifer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Regiment and as a French and Indian War fifer with the Weisers Battalion. Commenting on her chosen avocation, she observes, “By having the luxury of being a woman on the field, I am able to gain a man's perspective of his role during the war, yet I also understand the woman's role off the field and what courage it took for both to endure.”

One of the key influences of 18<sup>th</sup> century warfare, according to White, was the weather and its effects on people and situations. Reflecting on what she portrays in her Battle of Camden work, she says, “The fact that it was a hot August day during the Battle of Camden made me picture the smoke of the guns enveloping the men as they fired -- something I have witnessed many times -- separating de Kalb and the Marylanders from the rest of the battle. It is easy to see how his isolation could have led him to believe that his personal success was being shared by the rest of the army when the smoke and noise of the guns was so powerful, removing any line of communication.”

White, who now resides in Baltimore Maryland, was born in Fort Lee, New Jersey, and was raised there and in Delaware. She moved to Pennsylvania in 1987. She attended the Philadelphia College of Art, but is self-taught in pastels. “I’ve been enjoying working in pastels for the past 20 years,” White says, pointing out that “pastel is a medium of pure color whose properties offer unique ways to reveals form and light, *and* it was a popular medium in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.” Her innate talent with pastels has made her a signature member of the Pastel Society of America.

White's love of American history introduced her to the world of state and national history sites in the 1980s, a decision that led her to first seriously researching 18th century America then interpreting the people. Her interest proved to be more than a hobby when she starting receiving commissions to create historically accurate works for historic sites and corporations.

Today, her historical paintings, portrait work and corporate commissions fill her time. Her studio is located in Baltimore, while her work is carried in galleries and historic sites throughout the east coast. White also sells her artwork via her website at <http://www.ppatrickwhite.com>. In celebration of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution, White has chosen to put two of the significant battles on canvas: the Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Camden.

Joanna Craig, director of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, says that since 2002, she and White had been discussing the possibility of the artist doing both a painting of the battle and exhibiting her work at the 225<sup>th</sup> Battle of Camden Celebration on August 20-21, 225<sup>th</sup>, which White has agreed to do. Her exhibit will be displayed at the Kershaw-Cornwallis House during the weekend.

According to Craig, the only previously well-known depiction of the battle has been the famous “Death of de Kalb” by Alonzo Chappell done in the 1850s. Typical of the art style of the era, it is a moving but static scene of de Kalb on the ground being protected from further attack by his devoted aide, DuBuysson. As Craig observes, “Chappell chose not to depict de Kalb as an incredibly fit 59-year-old professional soldier, who lived on bread and water and walked and camped with his men – men who would have followed him anywhere. Pamela Patrick White does -- and magnificently.”

White's original 41” x 61”-inch pastel is available for purchase for \$6,500, unframed, by contacting Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, purchase payable to Historic Camden by

check or MasterCard/Visa. White most generously will share some of the proceeds with Historic Camden. In addition, if the buyer wants to donate the original artwork to Historic Camden for a tax donation, he/she will receive a ¾-size Qoro canvas print of the piece in return. If the buyer keeps the original, White will donate the Qoro to Historic Camden. The museum will also benefit from the weekend sales of the signed and numbered lithograph prints.

During the 11:00 am and 3:00 pm battles on Saturday White will be on the "battlefield" as a Maryland 1<sup>st</sup> fifer. The rest of the weekend, she will be at the Kershaw House manning her exhibit. As she says, "I have very strong feelings of patriotism for our country and hope that the paintings I create of our country's beginnings inspire people to pass these stories to their children, and keep our country's history alive."

If you are attending the 225<sup>th</sup> Battle of Camden Celebration on August 20-21, be sure to see White's rendering of the battle and meet the artist. We think you will agree that Pamela Patrick White has truly captured a moment in Camden's and our Nation's history that must – and now will -- be kept alive.

**Artist Pamela Patrick White's new painting, "The Battle of Camden" in pastel - 41" x 61", available unframed for \$6,500; Qoro Canvas Prints 24" x 36 "a limited edition of 12: \$700; Lithograph 19"x31" signed & numbered limited edition of 500: if purchased before August 21, 2005: \$50; after August 21, 2005: \$85. ★**

## **Major General Johannes de Kalb: Tragic hero of the Battle of Camden**

**by S.L. Rinner**

At dawn on August 16<sup>th</sup> 1780, as the British and Continental armies neared each other, Major General Johannes de Kalb had his troops form up. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland and Delaware regiments were at the forefront of the battle positioned in a line between the road on their left and the swamp to their right. While the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland regiment formed as a reserve behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland and Delaware line, De Kalb took his place with the reserve to watch the proceedings, as much as the light would allow and depending on those orders given by Patriot commander Gen. Horatio Gates, having confidence in the training of the Maryland and Delaware regiments.

As morning's light revealed the British lines, the Virginia and North Carolina Militia began to engage the enemy and the Maryland and Delaware immediately followed. At this point, the Virginia and North Carolina militias made the mistake of leaving the center open. Though, haze was reported, apparently de Kalb had noticed the gap and seized the opportunity to send the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland reserve left of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland, filling the gap of the dwindling militia.

Unfortunately, it was too late as the British had pushed forward enough to flank the Delaware and 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland on their left and cut the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland reserve off from the main line. De Kalb sent his trusted aid-de-camp, Lt. Col. Charles-Francois Du Buysson to Gen. William Smallwood, telling him to keep the reserve with the line, but found Col. Otho H. Williams instead, who did his best to align the reserve with the other regiments.

The British pushed forward, separating the two brigades. At this time de Kalb was focusing mostly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland and Delaware line directly under his command. As the reserve was pushed back, the main line pushed forward. When the main line was pushed back, the reserve rallied to make an attempt to gain ground. However, the attempt failed and they were pushed back again by the British.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland and Delaware fired volleys at the British lines until they were forced back. De Kalb continued to inspire his men to hold fast, but being cut off from the reserve, they were forced into a

retreat. Moving to the forefront, de Kalb encourage the Maryland and Delaware regiments to push again and force the British lines back. With the use of bayonets, the Maryland and the Delaware regiments marched forward to confront the British under the immediate supervision of Lord Rawdon. British General Lord Cornwallis noticed the remaining Continental Line comprised of the Maryland and Delaware to the right of the road facing the Volunteers of Ireland and British Legion Infantry began to concentrate the rest of his force on de Kalb's brigades.

Seeing the new threat, de Kalb maneuvered to where he could confront the new opposing line after just pushing through the enemy and taking prisoners. The Continentals were again forced back as de Kalb tried rallying them once more after just having fallen from his horse which was shot from under him, they lost their prisoners and the ground they gained to the enemy. The field adjutant attending a saber wound received to de Kalb's head had begged the General to retire, but de Kalb refused and took his place again with his troops as hand to hand fighting raged and the cavalry of the British Legion was descending upon them. The Maryland and Delaware regiments reformed under de Kalb and charged with bayonets into the British lines, going through them to wheel around upon their rear.



**Maj. Gen. Johannes deKalb (1721–1780) by Charles Wilson Peale, Independence National Historic Park.**

It was at this point in time, de Kalb received round shot wounds. Still refusing to give up, he led his men on to make a return bayonet charge only to have received one in his chest, cutting down the soldier who inflicted the wound then collapsing to the ground. The Maryland and Delaware continued to contest the ground with the British in a bloody melee while Du Buysson shielded de Kalb's body with his own from further wounds, asking them to stop by shouting the name of the man he was protecting. Du Buysson was nevertheless wounded by bayonets as did the maimed de Kalb.

Finally, the Maryland and Delaware broke and retreated. De Kalb was taken captive, propped up against a wagon and stripped nearly half-naked. Cornwallis had the humiliation inflicted upon the

wounded general halted, ordering that he be taken immediately to Camden and placed into the best of care, though the best care in the world at the time would not help. Three days later, de Kalb succumbed to his wounds and died.

Before his death, he told Du Buysson to inform his Maryland and Delaware brigades how honored and proud his was to have fought along side such brave men. Cornwallis presided over the funeral for de Kalb who received full military and Masonic honors as he was laid to rest at the foot of a tree that served as his grave marker until 1825.

The loss of such a gallant soldier was felt throughout the Colonies and even in France where he had been a member of the Army for over 40 years and had made the country his home. Family, friends and those who knew de Kalb deeply mourned his demise.

*General de Kalb, Lafayette's Mentor*, A.E. Zucker. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966.

*The Life of John Kalb*, Freidrich Kapp, Henry Holt and Co. 1884.

*Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces*, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. T. Cadell, 1787. Arno Press, Inc. reprint 1968.

*The Battle of Camden South Carolina – Historical Statements*, Lt. Col. H.L. Landers, U.S. Gov. Printing Office, 1929, Kershaw County Historical Society, reprint, 1997.

## Letters from DU BUYSSON des Hays, Charles-Francois, Le Chevalier, Lt. Col., aide-de-camp of Gen. DeKalb

Charlotte Aug. 26th 1780.

### To Generals Smallwood and Gist:

Having received several wounds in the action of the sixteenth instant, I was made prisoner with the honorable Major-General the Baron de Kalb, with whom I served as aide-de-camp and friend, and had an opportunity of attending that great and good officer, during the short time he languished with eleven wounds, which proved mortal on the third day.

It is with pleasure I obey the Baron's last commands, in presenting his most affectionate compliments to all the officers and men of his division; he expressed the greatest satisfaction in the testimony given by the British army of the bravery of his troops, and he was charmed with the firm opposition they made to superior force when abandoned by the rest of the army. The gallant behaviour of the Delaware regiment and the companies of artillery attached to the brigade, afforded him infinite pleasure, and the exemplary conduct of the whole division gave him an endearing sense of the merit of the troops he had the honor to command.

I am dear generals

Your most obedient humble servant

**LE CHEVALIER DuBUYSSON.**

[To unknown addressee:]

Hillsboro Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1780.

### SIR:

The Baron DeKalb, taken by the British and mortally wounded, desired me to repair immediately to Philadelphia, to give, in his name, to Congress, a full account of his transactions relative to his command of the Maryland and Delaware line, since his departure from Pennsylvania, to clear his memory of every false or malignant insinuation, which might have been made by some invidious persons, but as my wounds do not permit me to travel as fast as I could desire,

I thought it convenient to acquaint you, Sir, of my repairing to Congress with all the baron's papers and accounts, that no measure be taken towards this affair before my arrival in Philadelphia, which will be as speedily as possible.

The Baron DeKalb, deserted by all the militia, who fled at the first fire, withstood with the greatest bravery, coolness and intrepidity, with the brave Marylanders alone, the furious charge of the whole British army; but superior bravery was obliged at length to yield to superior numbers, and the baron, having had his horse killed under him, fell into the hands of the enemy, pierced with eight wounds of bayonets and three musket balls. I stood by the baron during the action and shared his fate, being taken by his side, wounded in both arms and hands. Lord Cornwallis and Rawdon treated us with the greatest civility. The baron, dying of his wounds two days after the action, was buried with all the honors of war, and his funeral attended by all the officers of the British army. The doctor having reported to Lord Cornwallis the impossibility of curing my wounds in that part of the continent, he admitted me to my parole, to go to Philadelphia for effecting an exchange between me and Lieut.- Col. Hamilton &c.

**LE CHEVALIER DuBUYSSON.**

These letters are found on page 189-191 of Kennedy & Kirkland, *Historic Camden, Colonial and Revolutionary*, Vol. 1.

## Discovering de Kalb

by S.L. Rinner

Three years ago when I attended the Tarleton Symposium at Camden, I explored the area. Coming across the name de Kalb on the marker north of town and the headstone before the Bethesda Presbyterian Church on Camden's main drag. Now, I had not heard of this name before. So, naturally, I was curious as to who this de Kalb was. Since then, I have been attempting to find information on this mysterious patriot of the Revolution.

But... little came up that didn't seem like a broken record or a repeat of what someone else had already written.

I was able to find various images online of Baron de Kalb including the painting by Peale. An image of a bust of de Kalb that is in Georgia, the statue of him in Annapolis, Maryland or even the mural in De Kalb, Illinois.

More and more I was curious. Eager to learn more, I found out about a book on de Kalb that was written by Freidrich Kapp published in 1884. I thought I would never be able to get a hold of the book until discovering the University of Iowa Library had a copy. Also, I learned that the University of Iowa library had *General de Kalb, Lafayette's Mentor* by A. E. Zucker among gads of books on the American Revolution. I swore... I was in heaven! Literally in tears as I was just drooling over the amount of information that could bombard my poor little mind!

I dived into reading the 2 books – *The Life of John Kalb* and *General de Kalb, Lafayette's Mentor* – just gasping with amazement. Kapp detailed much on de Kalb from his birth to his death. Zucker did the same. Both made mention, even some publishing of some letters de Kalb wrote.

Kapp's book was so detailed but elaborate in words that sometimes made it hard to comprehend. But... the info at the end on who was de Kalb, his appearance... and even information up until 1864 the children and grandchildren of de Kalb just proved to be invaluable. Kapp having dove full headstrong into research also was extremely

lucky enough to have gained assistance in obtaining priceless letters and documents concerning de Kalb. Zucker wrote further into the same but also mentioned with the letters some stories on de Kalb, which just added more depth to this forgotten hero.

With reading these books further raised more questions. Even talking to a few people on other aspects of his life. One being his Masonic ties. So... I checked upon it with such interest and learned that he along with others close to Washington were a part of a Lodge. Some of those included Henry Lee, Lafayette, Greene... What a stunning revelation that was! I was even more excited!

Another was reading more into encounters with other figures I have interest in such as Francis Marion riding north to meet de Kalb. His mention of the "old General" was characteristic to what others have mentioned. Though... it left me to want to know who all had crossed the path of this Huettendorf native.

Huettendorf. I was just as confused more so from many places stating where his birthplace was. Alsace being one, Bavaria. Even having said he was German and Prussian... Austrian... After a little more research online to compare maps of past and present. Finally got an understanding of why it was so confusing. Today... Huettendorf is in the French providence of Alsace. But when de Kalb was born, it was apparently a Bavarian claim or province. During de Kalb's life, it had changed the hands of rulers, falling as part of the Prussian Empire. Such unrest in his homeland could have most likely led him to leave home in search of something better.

That something better – as Kapp and Zucker found – led the young Bavarian to the French Army. They both had stated that it was not all that uncommon for peasants from another provincial or country to enlist into the French Army. The young lad born as Johannes Kalb in Huettendorf was discovered to be Jean de Kalb, an Adjutant Major in Loewendal's Regiment. How he enlisted in the military ... apparently happened sometime between aged 16 and 22.

But his life in the military propelled him into an extraordinary career. Gaining experience under Saxe and Loewendal. Observing first hand battles during the Austrian Succession. Distinguishing himself with his apparent attention to detail.

Later his attention to subordinates under him led him to vouch for their welfare. He never forgot his own ambitions to advance in the French military. Balancing well enough his ideas, his ambitions and his concern for fellow soldiers had placed him in high standing with superiors. Superiors such as Comte de Broglie considered him to be an upstanding and able officer. Also his actions during the Seven Years War continued to compel him into further experience that would later assist him in the American Revolution.

As did his first visit to the Colonies assist him in years to come. Sent over by Choiseul to spy after word of unrest in the Americas. De Kalb's duration in the Colonies at this time was rather harsh but he was able to establish good relationships with upstanding citizens including Dr. Phile who was a Germanic immigrant residing in Philadelphia.

Choiseul accused de Kalb of returning from his mission in the Colonies too soon despite de Kalb thought he to be endangered when apparently letters had been discovered opened.

I'm still reading up a lot on his life between 1743 and 1777. Though what I have read, again, would serve de Kalb later during the American Revolution such as his attention to detail, his understanding of warfare as he learned from Saxe and Loewendal, or even his ambition and compassion of military life.

Though what was most intriguing when I came to find that he married the youngest daughter of van Robais, apparently famous in Europe at the time for the family business of fine fabrics and materials. He great grandfather of de Kalb's wife had come to France upon the King's request giving him sound establishment of a company and the ability to thrive. In which it did.

Anna Elisabeth Emilie van Robais was 16 when wed to de Kalb who was at the time 43. His marriage to her also placed him in a stating socially that makes his title claim as Baron possible despite the trace of pedigree. De Kalb purchased later on the Milon la Chapelle. I was at a loss about this estate so I did a little searching online; had a little difficult time in finding out the real chateau that he owned. Milon la Chapelle at the moment is ending up more as an area than as the estate that de Kalb purchased for his family. According to Kapp, de Kalb, his wife Anna nor his eldest son Frederec never moved into the Milon. However, the youngest, Elie, was born there at the Milon. So, the claim that Anna never moved there confused me. Though, after the French Revolution, Elie returned under grace from Napoleon to recover the Milon successful. Though the de Kalb fortune had pretty much vanished. Elie later died at the Milon.

The fortunes of the 3 de Kalb children were most intriguing as well mostly after their father's death. Frederec having met his fate at the guillotine in 1793 accused of being a loyalist to the French Monarchy. Due to his military role in the French Army and connections it gained him the lost of his life. Anna Maria married to a Swiss officer in the French service just a few years prior to Frederec's death. She fled France during the French Revolution with her husband, mother and brother. A mystery I'm sure will be revealed in time.

Though my interest was his role in the American Revolution, his time in the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years War gave him invaluable experience that he used when he came over in 1777. Especially his fine detail as an adjutant when he was starting out in Loewendal's Regiment that assisted him years later when he was in command of troops from 1778 to 1780.

I enjoy reading about the little drama that occurred when he and Lafayette left France. Though, Lafayette and de Kalb had been planning the adventure, as de Kalb had made mention his surprise that it was kept secret for that long. Even more interesting was de Kalb's wait on board ship while Lafayette returned to Paris to find out his status on leaving to America. De Kalb advised the young Marquis to do what he thought was right. So, while young Lafayette was learning of his fate from Paris, de Kalb took advantage of his time in port. Unfortunately not returning home to his wife as he wrote to her practically every day from the "Victorie" for example mention of taking a hike up the nearest peak. Finally Lafayette returned, de Kalb wrote one last letter from Europe before setting sail.

When de Kalb returned to the Colonies, it was most interesting. Though, I'm not exactly sure his total reaction to their reception at Charlestowne other than with those with he and Lafayette, it was rather a rude one. Though, not as bad as the reception they received from Congress. Before arriving in Pennsylvania to gain audience with the Congress, their travel from Charlestowne to Philadelphia was a most hair-raising, ill experience. De Kalb seemed rather amused with Lafayette's view on being in the American Colonies unlike a couple others who had found the Colonies to be nothing more than a wicked, hellish infestation and wanted to return to France.

De Kalb and Lafayette were both furious over how they were treated by Congress. I do not blame de Kalb for his anger. He made plans to return home, making a suit to the Congress that he as well as the



other men that came here have their expenses paid in full from the time they came to South Carolina to their return voyage.

Though, in the meantime, Lafayette was granted to stay and given rank within the army. He would accept it only if de Kalb was given his rank as well as some others. De Kalb was in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at a settlement there when he received word that he was accepted to be Major General in the Continental Army. He refused at first though continued to think it over. Making decent conditions in which a few members of Congress were supportive in attempting to gain the experience of de Kalb for he was everything they were in need. He spoke fluent English, he had years of experience behind him and he had the rank, status and connections to assist. The final test of whether he would stay fell upon how well he was received by Washington and other Officers. They passed the test and de Kalb stayed.

It's de Kalb's time from 1777 to 1780 that was so interesting to me. Granted his life in general is interesting. But I found that his time in Valley Forge to be just the surface of his sufferings.

Being a re-enactor myself, I can understand totally what hells he endured. My last event was at Rockford, Illinois at an NWTA event. The heat that weekend was just horrific! De Kalb would call it intolerable. Overly hot and humid on Saturday, rained hard overnight – actually was a severe storm but missed us barely as straight winds damaged buildings just north of us-, then hotter on Sunday. Bugs – mostly the amount of spiders as I LOATHE them, the heat, the rain... I was rather amused when de Kalb wrote to his wife about these things. Including the ticks as he mentioned he was covered head to toe with these black pests.

When in New Jersey he made rounds as necessary when in command of a post. Having need to walk several miles a day to inspect these outposts. He mentioned the heat then and mostly on foot as his mount fell lame the first time he made rounds.

Catching up on the timeframe he was dispatched by Washington towards South Carolina. That ended up to be nothing more than a nightmare I can sympathize with. For re-enactors, what we have to deal with in camps and outside of camps, is a much grander scale. Though the initial march started with just enough supplies, initially was slowed when going through North Carolina for want of necessities like clothing, food, horses, and more men. Promised these things, de Kalb continued to beg for these from the Governor, even to plead with others to gain what he needed for his troops.

I read that Francis Marion came to greet de Kalb when he was in North Carolina. Which, I find so interesting unto itself. And what was said about de Kalb by a man who accompanied Marion just was incredible information on the character and physical makeup of this man. I always wondered how often de Kalb and George Washington were confused for one another.

After the fall of Charlestowne, Major Gen. Horatio Gates was sent by the Congress to take charge. When Gates arrived, de Kalb welcomed him warmly, happy to relinquish the role to Gates.

Soon enough de Kalb found he would be placed in a more annoying role with Gates in command. From the march from North Carolina to just north of Camden, Gates was not all that apparently receptive to suggestions by de Kalb on attack plans and routes. What directions Gates took compared to the areas that de Kalb suggested... just blows my mind as well. I am sure re-enactors have had issues with Commanders making bad decisions, even battles that just go wrong to the point of arguments after the events? I honestly cannot complain about that any more since... well, I see it as totally authentic!

De Kalb's bravery during the Battle of Camden I continue to look at. In a few areas I wonder of the truth. Well.. granted it was hazy, but how in the world did he know about when to bring the reserve in on the left of the main line if he had not noticed it? What Banastre Tarleton stated that de Kalb could hardly believe that the Gates' Army had been defeated. I still find that part hard to believe. De Kalb had a sharp mind yet average. I can hardly believe myself that de Kalb deluded himself with the thought that Gates was winning.

Zucker made mention that de Kalb was eager to seek a high rank. He was also eager for glory upon the battlefield, even at the expense of his own life if it was a worthy cause. The cause of American freedom was a more than worthy in his opinion despite those annoyance he had to endure – weather, bugs, poor equipage, egotistical officers and overwhelming inflation. In the end, he sacrificed himself at the Battle of Camden.

I know that my research of de Kalb will be a never ending challenge, I expect it to last my lifetime. I honestly cannot complain as de Kalb has been an inspiration even to me with his amazing commitment to his ambitions in life.

Germanic in birth, French in profession, but in spirit and death he was an American. Truly, de Kalb was a Patriot.

My special thanks to the University of Iowa Library for the use of *The Life of John Kalb* by Freidrich Kapp, *General de Kalb, Lafayette's Mentor* by A. E. Zucker, *Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces* by Lt Col Banastre Tarleton. Also to the Grand Lodge in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for their assistance with de Kalb's Masonic ties. Other material, images I have collected from online. Personal pictures taken by myself of the Battlefield Marker and gravestone.

Though I have only begun my research in de Kalb and I have a long way to go yet in acquiring materials and images related to de Kalb. ★



**Monument to Gen. DeKalb located in front of Bethesda Presbyterian Church on West DeKalb Street, Camden, SC. DeKalb was reinterred under this monument in 1825 with full Masonic rites; the cornerstone was laid by the Marquis de Lafayette. The largest monument on the state house grounds in Annapolis, Maryland depicts a dismounted Gen. DeKalb, with sword raised, leading his brave Maryland and Delaware Line Continentals at the Battle of Camden. Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri all have counties named for DeKalb.**

**CBB ★**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Charles,

As usual your July newsletter is a feast of new and wonderful original research and it will take me days to digest it all. I am overjoyed to have discovered you and your terrific online magazine, and from here on out will be eagerly awaiting it every month.

As some of your readers may know from my article published in the June 2005 issue about my research into the Revolutionary War service of my ancestor James Johnson, I am neither a Revolutionary War scholar nor a historian except as a dedicated and enthusiastic amateur. I'm a novelist, and whatever I know of the Revolution I've learned since the year 2001 while researching and writing a novel about Nathanael Greene's South Carolina campaign in the period June to September 1781.

Since my ancestor was a Continental soldier serving in the South, my eye was drawn to your editorial comments regarding the question whether *SCAR* may be biased in favor of Southern militia activity to the detriment of contributions made by the Continental Army. I absolutely agree that the Revolution was won in the Southern Department, and that for some unforgivable reason the fact has been lost in the teaching of American history. For the most part I also agree with the reasons you gave for *SCAR*'s emphasis on Southern militia service. But one or two remarks you made started me to thinking and although I'm a greenhorn in the field compared to you and most of your readers, I decided to risk exposing my ignorance by taking issue with them.

You stated that "many of the larger battles which involved Continental soldiers are well studied in published scholarly works..." While this is largely true in terms of generalship, grand strategy and strategic operations, it seems to me less true where questions of specific battlefield tactics are concerned and even less true when topics like small-unit organization and function are considered. Re-enactors and living historians probably possess a better understanding of these matters than anyone; but in the case of the dragoon service, for instance, the finer points of 1780's Continental army cavalry drill, maneuver and tactics must inevitably be conjectural, based as they must be on European manuals from earlier or later periods since, as far as I know, no exactly contemporary manuals exist other than Steuben's unfinished, and thus unpublished and evidently unused, 1780 manual for Legionary Corps. Scholarly historians, for the most part, have neglected to address these matters, an understanding of which would give us a far clearer picture of how the Continental Army in the South actually operated on the ground.

For example, we know that the Continental Congress reorganized the dragoon service in early 1781, turning the four Continental regiments into Legionary Corps, consisting of both horse and foot. We know from a letter of Maj. Richard Call of the Third Dragoons to Col. William Davies in the early summer of 1781 that efforts were being made to reorganize the Continental horse in that fashion. Steuben even started to write a manual for the new type of service. Furthermore we know that Lt. Col. William Washington's dragoon force in Greene's army often served with light infantry units, either Kirkwood's Delawares or the Virginia Light Troops. But did Washington and Greene consider this mixed unit a Legionary Corps? It is seldom, if ever, referred to as such in Greene's or Washington's correspondence, while a distinction is always made between the horse and foot troops of Lee's Partisan Legion. We know that the dragoon regiments were originally subdivided into troops, and the term *troops* is the common one employed at the time; yet Steuben, in his unfinished manual, speaks of sections as subdivisions of troops, and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century writings of Otho H. Williams, Henry Lee and others repeat that usage. *Were* there sections? Furthermore, Washington's dragoons frequently served with Southern militia or South Carolina State Troops—Sumter's/Henderson's, Hampton's, Hammond's, Marion's, Gresham's Georgians. All this leads to several so-far-

unanswerable questions: Given these confusing factors, exactly how was Washington's force organized? How, if it consisted of so many different kinds of units, was it commanded? A fertile field for study, I should think.

Important tactical questions remain to be answered about specific Continental army actions. Again I must give an example from the mounted service, as it is the subject I know best. Consider the charge of Washington's dragoons on Majoribanks' position in the blackjack thicket on the British right at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Was Washington actually ordered to charge? Greene, in his report, does not say he actually ordered such a maneuver. He simply says it happened. The wording of Williams's 19<sup>th</sup>-century account of the battle implies impatience and impulsiveness on Washington's part, leaving room for an inference of rashness. The Delawares were assigned in support but Washington appears to have moved at such a pace as to outrun them. It seems he was to have charged in concert with Hampton's state troops. Did he? Or did he get there without them? We can't tell from the usual sources. Did he dash headlong into the blackjacks without reconnoitering? Great soldier that he was, why would he do that? But how else explain the repulse of his charge by Majoribanks' troops stationed in the impenetrable thicket? These are just some of the hosts of issues that can arise when one looks carefully at a single Continental Army maneuver in one important battle.

Dr. Larry Babits in his study of Cowpens has pointed the way toward this more detailed brand of scholarship, but much more remains to be learned about the less-studied engagements like Hobkirk's Hill, Ninety-Six and Eutaw Springs. Why could not *SCAR* interest itself in helping fill these gaps of knowledge about the Southern Continental Army while also continuing to celebrate the contributions of the militia?

Secondly, you asserted that "most of the Georgia, North and South Carolina Continental Line units ceased to exist after their surrender in Charleston." This would be news indeed to the valiant veterans of Kirkwood's Delawares, Williams's Marylanders, Campbell's Virginians, Sumner's North Carolinians, Washington's dragoons and Lee's Legion—Continentalists all, some or all of whom were continuously engaged with the enemy from soon after the fall of Charleston to the end of active hostilities. I confess to having a personal interest here because my ancestor served during this period. But I do recognize that there is something especially stirring and romantic about the image of the citizen soldier who leaves his plow in the furrow and his wife and child at home, mounts his horse at need and rides off to do battle with the invader. In contrast, the poor regular—serving out his compulsory time like an indentured servant, unpaid, badly fed, ill-equipped, sometimes even unarmed, ragged and often sick—may seem a dreary figure indeed.

But as a descendant of one of these tattered regulars I can't help seeing the nobility of his kind of sacrifice. He had no Sumter's Law or Tory booty to possibly enrich him; often he had no nearby home to which he could return between emergencies. He could only do his sworn duty under the worst possible circumstances, knowing that to fail in that duty was to invite the lash, the noose or the firing squad. Nor can I help feeling that we should honor the contribution he made, admittedly with the help of the great Southern militia, to the winning of our freedom.

My own ancestor ended his Continental service by giving himself to what General Greene insisted was a mutiny. Of course I would have preferred to learn that he had served heroically throughout. But as anyone who has served in the military knows, the very same man may prove himself a hero one day and a goat the next. If in the end James Johnson lost faith in the army that could not feed, clothe or equip him, it's also true that most of his comrades in the Southern Continental Army held firm to their duty and only went home when officially released. I hope that while continuing to celebrate the accomplishments of the Southern militia, *SCAR* will see fit to honor those Continentals too, as the Patriots they also were.



Thanks again for making generally available such an excellent vehicle for new scholarship on the Revolution in the South. You and your colleagues and contributors are to be congratulated for all your hard and dedicated work.

Sincerely,

**Charles F. Price** Burnsville, NC [Charlesfprice@aol.com](mailto:Charlesfprice@aol.com)

Ed: I only meant that the South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia Continental Line units were never remanned after their surrender at Charleston in May 1780, not to imply that Congress and Gen. George Washington did not send south other fine troops in the form of the Maryland and Delaware Continentals and Virginia Legionnaires under Lee, Washington and Armand and Generals Greene and Wayne.

### **Follow up on Patriot Col. Thomas Brandon and Col. John Thomas memorial in Camp Croft State Park – Spartanburg County, SC**

Charles,

There is a Capt. John Thomas (3-11-1819 - 12-14-1879) buried in the Gilliam Chapel Cemetery near Santuc, SC according to the "Union County Cemeteries" book compiled by Mrs. E. D. Whaley. There is a marker to Col. Thomas Brandon at the Old Union Cemetery below Monarch, SC. Union County genealogist Mike Becknell, however, doubts that Colonel Thomas Brandon is really buried there, but he does not have an idea of the actual resting place. Given such indeterminacy, I simply say Brandon is buried in the traditional place.

**Best, Allan Charles**

**(Professor of History at USC Union and author of the  
*The Narrative History of Union County, SC*)**

Dear Charles,

If you recall from the newspaper article and notes I sent to you last April, both Col. John Thomas, Sr., and wife Jane Black Thomas, are buried near their last home place in Milford, near Greer, SC. In Thomas family historian, Leonard McCown of Irving, Texas' records is the notation: "In 1991 the former home of Col. John and Jane [Thomas] on Highway 101 in Greer, on North O'Neal Road is owned by Malcolm A. Mason, 3248 N. Highway 101, Greer, SC 29651. Locals say that a pile of stones [nearby] is the grave of Col. John Thomas." John and Jane's Thomas' youngest son, William D. Thomas, lived nearby and was executor of his father's will.

Col. John Thomas, Jr. (1751-1819) moved his family from South Carolina to Clair County, Illinois between 1804 and 1806, according to Leonard's research. He is buried in Shiloh Cemetery in Shiloh, Illinois.

I, too, am particularly interested in Union County, SC, families as related to the Thomas clan. The Young, Smith, Brandon, Golightly, and Stribling families (and dozens of others!) all married into this Thomas line. . .kind'a like a Who's Who of Upcountry history.

**Best from Ilene Jones Cornwell, Nashville, TN**



**Picture by Ilene Jones Cornwell shown memorial to Revolutionary War heroes, Col. John Thomas (Sr.) and his wife, Jane Black Thomas. This memorial is located in what is believed to be the old Thomas Family Cemetery in Croft State Park in Spartanburg County, SC. ★**

### **Battle of Camden 225th Annaversary Events Kickoff**

Camden, SC – On the battlefield - Despite the typical balmy still summer heat over one hundred gathered at the monuments at the Battle of Camden battlefield for commemorative ceremony on August 16, 1780. This 225th commemoration, sponsored by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site and the Hobkirk Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was especially joyous as the core of this battlefield has been permanently protected. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution placed commemorative wreaths on the site as period musketeers and honor guard, led by Charles Wallace, fired volleys and a swivel gun thundered in salute of the fallen heroes.

Crosby Lewis of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation chaired the presentations by Martha Bogle of the National Parks Service, Vincent Sheheen, SC Senate, Laurie Slade Funderburk, SC House of Representatives, Steve S. Kelly, Jr., Chairman, Kershaw County Council, and Charles B. Baxley, on behalf of the Battle of Camden Advisory Council.

The Crown's government, this time an invited guest, was ably represented by Gill Cooper, who honored the fallen of both armies. DAR site chairwoman, Phyllis Gale, tireless advocate of the site for over 25 years, spoke emotionally of the history of the preservation efforts by the Hobkirk Hill Chapter of the DAR at this site. Several members of Gen. DeKalb's family traveled from their homes in Huttendorf, Germany to attend the ceremony.

Battle of Camden preservation project archaeologist Steve Smith and Jim Legg displayed some of the artifacts recovered from the site. Clarence Mahoney read his poem, the "Battle of Camden" (see December 2004 SCAR), that described the action of August 16, 1780 in elegant poetry. Governmental representatives and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation discussed the partnership of federal, state and local governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations who banded together to preserve this important American cultural treasure. ★

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please submit items to post upcoming Southern Campaigns programs and events that may be of interest to Revolutionary War researchers and history buffs.

**August 6, 2005 – 2<sup>d</sup> Battle of Hanging Rock Commemoration of Gen. Thomas Sumter's Victory – Lancaster County, SC - 3 p.m.** at the Barron Masonic Lodge in Heath Springs, SC guest speakers Bert Dunkerly of Kings Mountain National Military Park and Andrew Jackson State Park Manager, Kirk Johnston, share research on the battle. Keith Brown of the Catawba Nation will be explaining the role of Chief New River and the other tribe members who participated in the battle. At **5:30 pm** a memorial service will be held at the base of the Hanging Rock. Contact Laura Ledford at [lledford@scprt.com](mailto:lledford@scprt.com).

**August 13, 2005 – Spartanburg, SC** - regional history in a bus tour of Revolutionary War battle sites in the Spartan District: Wofford Iron Works Battlefield, Union County Museum, Fairforest Headquarters of Colonel Ferguson, Blackstock's Plantation Battlefield, and Musgrove Mill State Historic Site. The tour, sponsored by Palmetto Conservation Foundation, lead by Military Heritage Preservationist, Dr. George Fields. Call 846-948-9615 for reservations or register at [www.palmettoconservation.org](http://www.palmettoconservation.org).

**August 16, 2005 – Battle of Camden site, Great Waxhaw Road (modern Flat Rock Road) 8 miles north of Camden, SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary and dedication ceremony hosted by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Hobkirk Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Historic Camden at 10:00 am at the battlefield. The battlefield is located 6 miles north of Camden on Flat Rock Road, off US Highway 521 North. For further information about this event visit: [www.camden225th.net](http://www.camden225th.net), call (803) 432-9841 or email: [hiscamden@camden.net](mailto:hiscamden@camden.net).

**August 18, 2005 – Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, 222 South Broad Street (US 521), Camden, SC** - Lyceum Series lecture and reception at the Kershaw-Cornwallis House at 7:00 pm featuring author/re-enactor Michael Cecere who will give a presentation on Patriot Colonel Charles Porterfield of Virginia. Porterfield was mortally wounded during the Battle of Camden night skirmish. Copies of Cecere's recent book, *An Officer of Very Extraordinary Merit*, will be available for purchase and autographing. [www.camden225th.org](http://www.camden225th.org), call (803) 432-9841 or email: [hiscamden@camden.net](mailto:hiscamden@camden.net).

**August 19, 2005 – Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 502 West DeKalb Street, Camden, SC** – 10:00 am commemoration to honor the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of German-born patriot hero, Gen. "Baron" Johannes deKalb, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780 and died three days later on August 19, 1780. [www.camden225th.org](http://www.camden225th.org), call (803) 432-9841 or email: [hiscamden@camden.net](mailto:hiscamden@camden.net).

**August 20-21, 2005 – Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, 222 South Broad Street (US 521), Camden, SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Camden programs and reenactment of the patriot defeat, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily. Visit the military and camp followers camps; see Battle of Camden reenactments on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am (night battle) and 3:00 pm (daybreak battle). Shop at sutlers row, attend a Patriot's funeral, courts-martial, round-table talk, period fashion show & dancing and children's activities. Admission charged. [www.historic-camden.net](http://www.historic-camden.net) or [www.camden225th.org](http://www.camden225th.org)

**August 20-21, 2005 – Battle of Camden Site, Great Waxhaw Road (modern Flat Rock Road)** 6 miles north of Camden, SC - the Palmetto Conservation Foundation offers free guided tours of the Camden battlefield on Saturday at 9:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 4:00 pm and on Sunday at 9:30 am and 1:00 pm.

**August 20, 2005 – Musgrove's Mill State Historic Site, Clinton, SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Patriot victory at the Battle of Musgrove's Mill. Guided tour of the battlefield followed by a memorial service at the battlefield. Space is limited, contact Brian L. Robson, Interpretive Ranger, Musgrove Mill State Historic Site at 864-938-0100 [brobson@scprt.com](mailto:brobson@scprt.com)

**August 27, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC** - Living History 9 am to 6 pm with the backcountry militia, and music by R.G. Absher and Laurie Fisher. Visitors are invited to explore a militia camp and learn about rifles and muskets used in the battle. Throughout the afternoon musicians R.G. Absher and Laurie Fisher will perform period music with the fiddle, guitar, and banjo. They will discuss the music of early America and its important to the frontier settlers.

[www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html](http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html)

**September 3, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC** - 8th Annual Kings Mountain Forum, Colonial Trade and Craft Fair, music and military camps. Craftspeople will demonstrate various skills and trades. Activities will include blacksmithing, woodworking, carpentry, pewtering, pottery, leatherworking, and more. Militia groups will perform military drill and demonstrate historic weapons. Musician Ken Bloom will also be performing.

[www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html](http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html)

**September 15, 2005 – Savannah History Museum - Lecture Series: "Revolutionary Perspectives" - "Creeks & Georgians in a Revolutionary Era"** by Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund of Auburn University. All lectures are free and are held in the Savannah History Museum Theatre. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Krystal at [912-651-2240](tel:912-651-2240) or [kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org](mailto:kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org) <http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=51>

**September 16-18, 2005 – Huntersville, NC - Latta Plantation Park** – will host a celebration honoring the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battles that took place in and round Charlotte in the year 1780. There will be a battle both days on the site representing the Battle of Charlotte and the Skirmish at McIntyre's Cabin (or Battle of the Bees). There will be sutlers present for your period needs. If you have any questions or requests, please contact Bob Boynton at [bob@rncr.org](mailto:bob@rncr.org) or 704-938-7744 or [www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org).

**September 17, 2005 – Laurens County/Newberry County, SC** - The Belfast House, c. 1785 (SC Highway 56 at county line) at 10:00 am (rain make-up 24th Sept.) Revolutionary War hero Gen. James Williams Bridge dedication and naming ceremony and with wreath laying, followed by installing the pistol that the State of North Carolina gave to Col. James Williams to the museum at Musgrove Mill State Historic Site and a tour of Laurens County Revolutionary War historic sites. For more information contact Joe Goldsmith at [joe5950@yahoo.com](mailto:joe5950@yahoo.com).

**September 18, 2005 – Camden, SC - Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site** – Joseph Kershaw House – 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Battle of Camden preservation project leader George Fields and archaeologist Jim Legg will present a program on Battle of Camden battlefield archaeology. Please bring your Battle of Camden artifacts and participate in the collectors' survey. Free and open to the public. For more information please call Historic Camden at (803) 432-9841 or email: [hiscamden@camden.net](mailto:hiscamden@camden.net).

**September 22, 2005 - Savannah History Museum Lecture Series:** "Revolutionary Perspectives" – Presenting "'The Glory is Gone!' The Failure of the British Southern Strategy", a lecture by noted author, Dr. Edward J. Cashin of Augusta State University. Lecture is free and will be held in Savannah History Museum Theatre. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Krystal at **912-651-2240** or **kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org**  
<http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=52>

**September 25, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Battlefield - In-Depth Battlefield Tour** - This tour will follow the Provincial and British Regular soldiers' route through the battlefield. Visitors will see the battlefield as the troops saw it. The tour is strenuous and will last two hours; registration is required. Contact Kings Mountain National Military Park for details.

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

**September 29, 2005 - Savannah History Museum Lecture Series:** "Revolutionary Perspectives" - Featuring "'Ten to One' Odds of No Return: Lachlan McIntosh, Benjamin Lincoln, and the Virginia Continentals During the Siege of Savannah", presented by Dr. Carol Ebel of Armstrong Atlantic State University. The lecture is free and will be held in Savannah History Museum Theatre. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Krystal at **912-651-2240** or **kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org**  
<http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=53>

**October 1-2, 2005 – Spartanburg County, SC** - 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Walnut Grove Plantation and Re-enactment of the Loyalist Major William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham raid.

**October 6, 2005 – Cowpens National Military Park, SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Over Mountain men at Cowpens National Battlefield.

**October 6, 2005 - Savannah History Museum Lecture Series:** "Revolutionary Perspectives" - "The Intrepid Warrior: Casimir Pulaski Fights for American Liberty" presented by Francis C. Kajencki, Colonel, U.S. Army Retired. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. The lecture is free and will be held in Savannah History Museum Theatre. RSVP to Krystal at **912-651-2240** or **kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org**  
<http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=54>

**October 8-9, 2005 – Savannah, Georgia. Reinterment and Hero's Funeral Mass for American Revolutionary War Patriot Gen. "Count" Casimir Pulaski and rededication of the Pulaski Monument in Monterrey Square.** The last remains of Polish American Revolutionary War hero, Gen. Casimir Pulaski, the father of the Patriot cavalry, will lie in state in with honor guards in several Savannah area churches and Temple Mickve Israel before funeral mass and reinterment in the Pulaski Monument in Monterey Square on Sunday, October 9, 2005. **Preliminary Schedule: October 8, 2005** - Battlefield Park wreath laying with musket, drum, bugle and pipes ceremony at Louisville Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard. **6:30 pm** - Reception and Dedication of the "Pulaski Room" at Savannah International Trade and Convention Center (SITCC). **7:30 pm to 10:30 pm** Dinner, Dignitaries, Award Ceremonies, and "Pulaski Polonaise Ball" at the SITCC. Presentation of "Pulaski - O'Neil" Medal to Recipients after Dinner. Lying In State. Ships' Open houses. Original Banner Display. **October 9, 2005 at 9:30 am** - Solemn Mass For the Dead (Pulaski) at Cathedral of Saint John The Baptist. (Bishop Boland is designating Archbishop O'Brien of the Military Ordinariate Archdiocese of US and Poland's Military Prelate as the Principal Celebrants, subject to their concurrence). **11:00 am** - Funeral Procession and en route programs & hymns by the Bull Street Corridor National Landmark Historic District Churches. **Noon** - Reinterment in new tomb in front

(north side) of the Pulaski Monument, Monterey Square, with accompanying Military, Roman Catholic and Interfaith ceremonies. **Evening** - Governor's Dinner.

The Mickve Israel Temple museum on Monterey Square honors Savannah Patriot Col. Mordecai Sheftall, who served as Deputy Commissary General of Issues for all Continental Troops in South Carolina and Georgia and Commissary General of Georgia troops. For museum tours, see [www.mickveisrael.org](http://www.mickveisrael.org).

**October 7-8-9, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain and grand re-opening of museum on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Museum renovation will be complete and brand new exhibits will tell the story of the battle. **October 7<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 am** wreath laying ceremony. **3:00 pm** guest speaker and arrival of Overmountain Victory Trail marchers. **7:00 pm** British actor Howard Burnham as Sir Henry Clinton. **October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:** Living history camps open to the public 9 am to 6 pm. Battle tactical demonstrations at 2 pm each day. Activities will include music, Ferguson Rifle demonstrations, military funeral for British Maj. Patrick Ferguson, discussions on camp life, military drill, and more. Event ends at 4 pm Sunday. Saturday night at **7:00 & 7:30 pm** - guided lantern tours of the battlefield by reservation only. Register at Visitor Center or call park: (864) 936-7921. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

**October 8, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Annual Candlelight Tour** - Guided tours proceed along the one-mile historic trail, which is illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight and torchlight. Along the way, costumed volunteers portray Colonial citizens and soldiers who tell stories of peace and war at old Ninety Six in the 1700s. Tours begin at 7 pm & leave every 10 minutes until 8:20 pm.

**October 14, 2005 – Pacolet, SC** - Explore the history of Pacolet, tour a granite quarry, visit the site where feared British commander Tarleton was encamped in Pacolet and visit where he crossed the Pacolet River in pursuit of Daniel Morgan and his troops. Learn of the role of the militia in the American Revolution, fee \$10 includes lunch. Tour begins at 9:00 a.m.

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view&WebSiteID=127&WebPageID=6527>

**October 15-16, 2005 – North Augusta, SC – Living History Park** – presents: Colonial Times "A Day to Remember" - featured attractions include hornsmithing, pottery, a tomahawk throw, butter churning, weaving and spinning, quilting, candle making, scrimshaw, pewterer, musket firing demonstrations, calligraphy, gunsmithing, gold and silversmithing, blacksmithing, woodworking, meat smoking and curing. Be sure to stop by and visit with the Indian traders, the Backwoodsmen, the Sutlers, the Milliner, the Tavern Keeper, the Alchemist, and pet the animals! Web page is [www.colonialtimes.us](http://www.colonialtimes.us) or if you have any question either please email [lynn@colonialtimes.us](mailto:lynn@colonialtimes.us) or call 803 279-7560. Free.

**October 15-16, 2005 - Summerton, SC** - American Revolutionary Living History Encampment/Re-enactment and Wildlife Expo. 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration of "Victory at Fort Watson" at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge, I-95, Exit 102, US 15/301, Summerton, SC. Please check website for updates: [www.francismariontrail.com](http://www.francismariontrail.com) or call: 803-478-2217 or 803-478-2645.

**October 22, 2005 – Brattonsville, SC** - Historic Brattonsville will host a reenactment of the Battle of King's Mountain, fought on October 7, 1780. One of the most famous battles of the Southern campaign, this Patriot victory has been described as the Southern militia's finest hour. To be placed on a mailing list and receive registration materials for York County Cultural History Museum



225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, contact Jeannie Marion, CHM Director of Marketing and Public Information, at [jemarion@chmuseums.org](mailto:jemarion@chmuseums.org).

**October 23, 2005 Kings Mountain National Military Park - In-Depth Battlefield Tour** - This tour will follow the South Carolina and Georgia militia's route through the battlefield to see the battlefield as the troops saw it. The tour is strenuous and will last two hours; registration is required. Contact Kings Mountain National Military Park for details.

**November 4-5, 2005 – Spartanburg, SC** - Seminar and banquet with keynote presentation by John Buchanan, author of *The Road to Guilford Courthouse - The American Revolution in the Carolinas*.

**November 4th** – Afternoon - Tour of Battlefields in the Old Spartan District. **November 4th – 6:30 pm** - Banquet at the Piedmont Club in Spartanburg with John Buchanan address, "The Backcountry Campaign That Led to Cowpens," and Revolutionary War Re-enactors will be table hosts. **November 5<sup>th</sup>** – 9:15 am symposium "Restoring Our Revolutionary Heritage" will be held in the Spartanburg County Library, 151 S. Church Street. John Buchanan will give the keynote address, "South Carolina's Key Role in the American Revolution." There will be other presentations on researching the Revolutionary Heritage in archives, genealogical records, and archaeology, and a session on preserving battlefields and other Revolutionary sites. Fees charged. Registration will be available beginning August 26, 2005 at

[www.palmettoconservation.org](http://www.palmettoconservation.org) or by calling 864-948-9615.

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view&WebSiteID=127&WebPageID=6527>

**November 5-6, 2005 – Camden, SC – “Camden 1774”.** 10 am to 5 p.m. daily featuring: Camden Grand Jury, Royal militias drill, military music, period fashion show and dancing, military roundtable discussion, 18th century church services, and kids' activities. Colonial craftsmen and demonstrations and sutlers row teaming with unique traditional 18th century gifts.

<http://www.historic-camden.net>

**November 11, 2005 – Rock Hill, SC – Museum of York County** – “Book Talk” featuring Revolutionary War authors Carl Borick, Michael Scoggins and Robert Pelton. [www.chmuseums.org](http://www.chmuseums.org)

**November 19-20, 2005 – Cross Anchor, SC** - Battle of Blackstock's Plantation 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony. The Blackstock's program will be conducted on the battlefield. **Saturday, November 19th** 10 am – 2 pm re-enactors demonstrations by the State Park Service and battlefield tours by Palmetto Conservation Foundation. **Sunday, November 20th:** 3 pm - 225th Anniversary Celebration and Dedication of the battlefield as a State Historic Site. Battlefield tours will be conducted a 2 pm & 4 pm.

**December 17, 2005 – Clinton, SC – Musgroves Mill State Historical Site** – 10:00 am - Sam Fore (SCAR contributor) special collections librarian at the John D. Rockefeller Library of Williamsburg, Virginia will present a paper on South Carolina Patriot Lt. Col. James McCall of the Long Cane settlement, commander of the SC State Dragoons. McCall fought at Ninety Six in 1776, the Cherokee battles, Kettle Creek, Musgroves Mill, the siege of Augusta, Fish Dam Ford, Blackstock's Plantation, Long Cane, and with Lt. Col. William Washington at the Battle of Hammond's Store, Cowpens, Wetzel's Mill, and at Beattie's Mill. He died of small pox contracted during the campaign. Small admission. For additional information call Brian Robson at 864-938-0100 or email [brobson@scprt.com](mailto:brobson@scprt.com)

**January 14-15, 2006 – Cowpens National Battlefield - Battle of Cowpens 225th anniversary** - Updates will be posted on the park's website. Contact Cowpens National Battlefield for details.

**January 15-16-17, 2006 - March to Cowpens** - led by Revolutionary War re-enactors, march the Green River Road, route from Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River to Cowpens, following the route take by General Daniel Morgan. Contact Cowpens National Battlefield for details.

**January 17, 2006 – Spartanburg, SC** - Re-dedication of the statue of General Morgan in downtown Spartanburg and 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary events at the Cowpens battlefield.

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view&WebSiteID=127&WebPageID=6527>

**March 7 - 15, 2006 - Guilford Courthouse, NC - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - The park will be holding an expanded version of its popular lecture series on four evenings, March 7 – 10. The anniversary of the battle will be observed the weekend of March 11 - 12 with an encampment. The park will also coordinate with the City of Greensboro and conduct a battle re-enactment in a city park adjacent to the NPS property that weekend. Contact Guilford Courthouse National Military Park for details.

**April 23, 2006 - Summerton, SC** - The Col. Matthew Singleton Chapter, South Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution is hosting the 225<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Fort Watson at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. (I-95, exit 102) There will be a color guard and wreath laying ceremony at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the wreath laying. Call Muriel Hanna at 803-478-4179 or 803-481-3836, or [hannaman@ftc-i.net](mailto:hannaman@ftc-i.net) for more information.

**April 21-22-23, 2006 – Camden, SC** – 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill and Gen. Nathanael Greene Symposium.

**May 20 & 21, 2006 - Ninety Six, SC – Gen. Nathanael Greene's Siege of Ninety Six** - The 225th anniversary celebration continues with an authentic encampment of British, Loyalist and Patriot (Continental and militia) forces and will focus on the 28-day siege (the making of gabions/fascines and various components of siege warfare). The park, local community, SAR groups, and DAR groups will feature a wreath-laying ceremony featuring 18th century entertainment, including music. Contact Ninety Six National Historic Site for details.

**June 2-3, 2006 – Augusta, Georgia** – 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Liberation of Augusta from Loyalist control - Symposium on the events and the American Revolution in Augusta and environs will be held at the Augusta Museum of History on June 2, 2006. Prominent local historians such as Dr. Edward J. Cashin will speak at the symposium that will include topics on the operational situation in 1781, Cols. Thomas Brown, Elijah Clarke, and Andrew Pickens. On Saturday, June 3d a celebration of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Augusta (siege of Ft. Cornwallis) by the City of Augusta and the Augusta Richmond County Historical Society. This event will include the re-enactors participating in the “Under the Crown” colonial events in North Augusta ([http://www.colonialtimes.us/crown\\_event.html](http://www.colonialtimes.us/crown_event.html)) that weekend. Plans for the celebration include a 3 pm presentation at the Celtic cross behind Saint Paul's Church (6<sup>th</sup> and Reynolds) and a 4 pm battle by re-enactors at the City pension property behind the RR depot on Reynolds Street, across Reynolds from the History Museum and across 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Saint Paul's. The event being commemorated is the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Augusta, or siege of Ft. Cornwallis, that took place 22 May through 5 June 1781. At that time, American forces under General Andrew Pickens, Elijah Clark, and “Light Horse Harry” Lee recaptured Augusta from its British/Loyalist occupiers. ★

## Book Reviews:

### ***The Day It Rained Militia* by Michael Scoggins** reviewed by Mickey Beckham

Michael Scoggins book on the Battle of Williamson's Plantation, or Huck's Defeat, is so refreshing in research, writing and color, particularly research, that it stands as a "encyclopedia" to some other books written recently, woefully caught lacking in research. Some other books jolt your historical wits with references to Francis Marion fighting in North Carolina and "Camden, North Carolina." Their literary palaver compounds the already sad confusion by a mass public that sometimes gets the American Revolution, and the Civil War, i.e. The War Between The States, consistently mixed in a recollection of names, events, and battles.

Well, Scoggins' book does not confuse you. He is a student/protégé/co-worker of Dr. Bobby G. Moss, who I still think is the best singular researcher in our recent South Carolina history on the American Revolution. Scoggins pays homage to Dr. Moss in the book in: "pioneering research on the Revolutionary War soldiers of this state"... "Dr. Moss's dedication and hard work," and Scoggins acknowledged Dr. Lawrence Babits and Allan W. Eckert, the latter who has indeed completed research that reads better than fiction. So Mike Scoggins is influenced and helped by three very good researchers. And, this is the same Michael Scoggins that recently had a big hand in identifying the real spot in Chester County where the Battle of Fishdam Ford took place. He is someone who wrote a most defining "Letter to the Editor" to the Rock Hill "Herald" newspaper. It was a soundly laid out piece on the myths and misunderstandings of Revolutionary War activity in the up-colony, and it was well received.

The chapters in the book read like a well-oiled history book and do not grind you down with boring language and facts that will not help you understand the big picture. I like Mike's style of writing so you can see the character and places. And if that is not what writing history books is all about then maybe Francis Marion did fight in North Carolina. Consider this lead in to a paragraph:

*"At thirty-three years of age, Lacey stood five feet and eleven inches tall, was a veteran of the French and Indian War and was a natural choice for a militia captain. In 1755, at the age of thirteen, Lacey ran away from home in Pennsylvania and joined British General Edward Braddock's disastrous expedition. For the next two years, he served as a packhorse driver in the British Army until his father found him and brought him home. At the age of sixteen, Lacey ran away from home again and came to South Carolina."*

Scoggins uses this very believable description of Lacey to go on and tell about his being aligned with the Adair family, becoming a bricklayer, obtaining several land grants and establishing a residence. He then takes him on to becoming a leader as a Whig but still being in conflict with his father...a story we had all heard about Lacey. Even to the point of having his father tied up to a bed and guarded so as not to alert the British. The psychologist in me says maybe that is why he kept running away from home. But seriously, it puts you inside of Lacey's head and prepares you for his activity as a Whig.

In Chapter Three, "God Almighty had become a Rebel," Scoggins begins a great way to tell a story. He gives you a day by day accounting of events leading up to the battle where Huck was defeated. He starts on June 6, 1780, with Captain John McClure on Fishing Creek and a scrimmage at Alexander's Old Field, leading up to what others were doing at the same time. Witness: *At about the same time as these events were transpiring (the exact date is uncertain) Colonel Samuel Watson and Lieutenant Colonel William Bratton called a meeting of the New Acquisition Militia at Bullock's Creek Meeting House...The news of Benjamin Lincoln's surrender,*

*the capture of Charleston and Colonel Abraham Buford's defeat had already reached the New Acquisition...* So the stage is set for the battle involving Huck and all the heroes for the Americans through Wednesday July 12, 1780, the day of the defeat and this is the longest of the "days" being fifteen pages long and the crux of the entire book, but still to be followed up with so many important events. Scoggins does not leave the reader hanging and finished with this one battle. He goes on to describe the aftermath beginning the very next day and continuing almost daily for the remainder of the month. This is welcomed for any reader not familiar with the southern campaign (and it appears they are many and living above Richmond Virginia) who will really want to know, "what happened next?"

Pay close attention to Chapter Six titled, "Their success will no doubt Encourage them." This is the time to take a breath and exhale and put all the important happenings into perspective. Scoggins does not disappoint anyone with the "afterwards." He shows copies of newspaper articles from different papers, New Jersey and Maryland and he goes into detail about what happened to men themselves after the battle. This is a shorter chapter but no less important to the serious reader.

Following the last chapter is the Epilogue and Mike Scoggins' observations on the book and he describes it in part: *"I originally envisioned it as a comprehensive historical account of Huck's Defeat and the galvanizing effect that the battle had as a 'morale booster' in the South Carolina Backcountry in 1780. As the project evolved, it became clear that there was a need for a more comprehensive history of the events leading up to the battle, many of which had not been treated in great detail before now. As the work continued I saw the need to refute the claims made by some historians that the residents of the Backcountry did not take an interest in the Revolution after the fall of Charleston."*

And so he does. Mike gives great attention and detail to the importance of the militia and says historians have downplayed their importance. He is right. Not only does he add weight to this fact but history itself does. What he does is bring it so much to your attention and with **research**, the key word, that you have no doubt that we were effectively defeated in the south after Charleston on May 12, 1780. However, we effectively and methodically defeated Tories and British in key battles thereafter in the backcountry, in the south, and in the South Carolina colony particularly. Scoggins proves it. Huzzah!

There is more. The book is 303 pages long including the Bibliography. The Epilogue, mentioned above, starts on page 155, and the first Appendix A starts on page 161 with the "Accounts of Huck's Defeat in pension applications." This fascinating first account information is followed with more first person reports in Appendix B: "British Army Correspondence June – July 1780." Then Appendix C: "How many men were in the battle? And in the next segment of Appendix D: "The Huck's Defeat battlefield." In this book you would expect to be given maps and details and it does that so well in Appendix D.

What many people have wondered about for years, even to the point of arguing more about Christian Huck than most any British officer in the upcountry, other than Banister Tarleton, is answered in great detail in Appendix E: "A biography of Christian Huck." Scoggins tackles the often debated spelling and pronunciation of Huck and debaters are rewarded. Hauk, Hock, Hook, Houk, Huick, and Huyck are those most often used. But thanks to Scoggins it seems to come down to Hook and Huck. I found this Appendix to truly be one of the more fascinating parts of the book for it humanizes a man who was briefly a treacherous person and demonized many times. But, owing to an early death, he never got to the level of others, namely Tarleton and Loyalist Maj. William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham.

Appendix F may be the most read Appendix of all by researchers and students, even casual readers, for it gives the reader the names of those at Huck's Defeat. It is titled "Roster of Soldiers at the Battle of Huck's Defeat." It gives names, rank, unit, home location and the church of the Whigs. Keep in mind this upcountry fight was called by many "The Presbyterian Rebellion". You will find the eight Presbyterian congregations located in areas that would become York and Chester Counties but in 1780 were part of "districts." Scoggins also lists the sources of his names for both British and American and thankfully lists with whom they served and where, so this listing becomes important to other battles such as Mobley's Meeting House and Alexanders' Old Field, the siege at Charleston and several others.

Hold the book up and turn it sideways to see the list across the pages and enjoy the seven categories of men on tables one, two and three. Then refer to the notes on the book and the research therein beginning on page 243 and continuing for 35 pages.

The best for the layperson interested in the American Revolution may be something else. This book is a hybrid, in my opinion, in that the middle of the book has "cinema" quality color photographs and color sketches. Many are recent of course but this adds to the pen and ink illustrations and drawings of men in uniform, maps and letters of the period. The photographs really do look like a movie on paper in sequence, and of the thirty-one color inserts, the photo of Huck in photo twenty seven looks real for its action of Huck's fatal wounds. Scoggins made this photo as he did several others in the color shots.

On shelf appeal the book is hefty feeling, a soft cover and rather large, 7 x (almost) 10 inches. I can well imagine a seventeen year old picking up this book and looking at the color photos much as he or she would a movie trailer. Then, intrigued, the student would look at the names listed and begin to feel these people were real. This person already has a better than even chance to read the book, especially the six chapters on and leading up to the battle and will be more enlightened about the American war of independence. This book actually will be excellent for essays and book reports for students in high school and college; and even some bright and aggressive seventh graders studying American history.

The most expensive wines and hard spirits in stores that purvey these bottles always put them on the top shelf. They are advertised as "top shelf." Mike Scoggins book "*The Day It Rained Militia*" is a "top shelf" book, although it should not be allowed to remain there. It should be on your desk or beside your computer, or beside your bedside table. It should be read. Then you have the pleasure or pain when you read other books which distort historical facts that make you wince. That is when you go back and review Scoggins' book.

**Mickey Beckham, Chair of the Battle of Beckhamville re-enactment (Alexander's Old Field), and author of the forthcoming novel *Colonial Spy*. ★**

### ***A Proper Sense of Honor Service and Sacrifice in George Washington's Army* by Caroline Cox**

Since the beginning of the twentieth century and the publication of Charles K. Bolton's now classic work, *The Private Soldier under Washington*, numerous historians have sought describe the lot of those who served in the ranks of the Continental Army. The coming of the Bicentennial inspired a flurry of new works examining such varied qualities as social composition and motivation. Thus, Caroline Cox's *A Proper Sense of Honor* stands, on one level, as merely the latest in a long and very erudite line of scholarly works on the military establishment that fought for and won American Independence. By the same token, the main thrust of the work is on how the soldiers were treated in a corporal sense, and how they

understood the meaning of this treatment. *A Proper Sense of Honor*, therefore, likewise falls well within the parameters of the relatively new field of the history of the body, something first postulated by the French philosopher Michel Foucault in *Discipline and Punish*. In the broadest sense, by utilizing a cultural approach to a military topic, Cox's work stands as an addition to the growing body of literature concerned with war and culture. While categorizing the book may seem difficult, one thing is certain, regardless of where it falls in the historiography Caroline Cox's *A Proper Sense of Honor* sheds some exciting new light on the Continental Army.

Since the author's primary concern is with how the men were treated and what they endured physically, the book focuses on such things as discipline, medical care, the treatment of prisoners and the treatment of the dead. It begins, however, by describing the methods of recruiting employed over the course of the war. Since one of the driving questions is how these troops understood their physical treatment, a precursor to finding an answer to that query lies in gaining some understanding of who the soldiers were and from whence they came. Thus, Cox begins with an examination of how the men were recruited, and what forces motivated them to join and remain with the ranks. In describing their motivations, Cox joins a long-standing debate involving such historians as Robert Gross, Charles P. Neimeyer, James Kirby Martin, Martin Lender, Edward C. Papenfuse, Gregory A. Stiverson and Charles Royster. The majority of these scholars assert that the bulk of Washington's army after 1775 came from the very lowest ranks of society, and that their primary motivation for service lay in their own economic gain. Royster, on the other hand, almost single-handedly maintains an alternative interpretation that maintains these men must have held some belief in ideals they fought for, especially when it is considered that their pay often did not arrive, and on the rare occasions when it did, it was so depreciated as to be nearly worthless.<sup>1</sup> While Cox adds nothing new to the central issues in this controversy, she does work at a synthesis between the competing schools. Essentially, she suggests that while recruits may have joined in order to profit, once in the ranks, they saw their best chances for financial gain in prosecuting the war to a successful conclusion. Cox's contention may constitute the beginning of a solution to this long-standing debate. By the same token, once the men were in the ranks, they had to learn the duties of a soldier; likewise, their officers had to be able to teach them these duties.

Thus, Cox moves on in her second chapter to a discussion of the various means used to teach both the officers and the men their various roles in the army. One facet of her investigation turns on the military literature used to teach officers their responsibilities. Here, the author notes a dearth in the works designed to teach officers the basic rules for setting up camps. It is important to point out that in making this assertion; she totally neglects to mention Humphrey Bland's *A Treatise of Military Discipline*, a work written in the 1720s that went through numerous editions, including several pirated American ones. The point of this work was precisely to instruct junior officers in many of their more mundane responsibilities. Bland's *Treatise* was known to and recommended by Washington to

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<sup>1</sup> For more details on the debate, outside of the work currently under examination, see: Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World*. New York: Hill & Wang, 1976; James Kirby Martin and Martin Lender, *A Respectable Army: The Military Origins of the Republic, 1763-1789*. Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc. 1982; Charles P. Neimeyer, *American Goes to War A Social History of the Continental Army*. New York: New York University Press, 1996. Edward C. Papenfuse and Gregory A. Stiverson, "General Smallwood's Recruits: The Peacetime Career of the Revolutionary Private." *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d series, 30 (1973): 117-32; Charles Royster, *A Revolutionary People at War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979.



other officers on a number of occasions.<sup>2</sup> Obviously, this omission leads to some serious flaws in her argument that the junior officers had only one means to learn some aspects of their jobs—experience. It would be more apropos to maintain that while Bland’s manual was useful in teaching junior their duties, it was certainly supplemented in large measure with a great deal of hands-on experience. Those who did not learn their proper role earned a consequence.

Consequences for misbehavior among both officers and men leads naturally to an examination of the means of punishment used to instill discipline in the Continental army. Of note, in this context, is that punishments for officers and enlisted men differed. Officers, for example, would not face corporal punishment for their actions. Still, they had some important aspects in common—both groups were concerned with how punishments were perceived by their peers. This was true, apparently, whether the offender was a private who was whipped for stealing or an officer reprimanded for a dereliction of duty by a superior. Thus, a sense of honor—also part of a quote from Washington on discipline from whence the book derives its name—was paramount to fostering the army’s cohesion. In this regard, the author makes the significant point that punishments had to be meted out carefully. As she observes, the sources have not left us any suggestion of what contemporaries deemed proper and equitable punishments, but they certainly seemed to possess a sense for when a punishment exceeded its intended purpose. Likewise, there were regional cultural variations that came into play when punishments were meted out. For example, the troops from South Carolina were more inclined to find the use of the flogging an egregious punishment. This revulsion stemmed not so much from the physical damage inflicted by the lash, but from the fact that it was a common instrument for disciplining slaves. Even South Carolina privates from the lowest rung of the social ladder—perhaps they even more so—would seek to preserve their social superiority from the slaves (Pp. 84). By the same token, the discussion of punishment brings out one of the key methodological underpinnings of the book, how men viewed their physicality.

The concern with the physical reaches its apex in the author’s examination of the treatment of the sick and wounded. At the time, the college educated doctor’s were attempting to establish themselves. The concern with formal medical education held importance in that the Continental army served as an important realm for this process to work itself out. Not only does the chapter describe the process by which college educated doctors asserted their professionalism, it delves into the informal means soldiers employed when sick. These included family and unit connections exploited in order to gain access to medicines and care.

Not all those who fell ill survived. Most histories of the Continental army provide at least some description of the large numbers who died of disease. Caroline Cox, however, takes this a step further—examining how the dead were treated. Officers, of course, received the most ostentatious funerals. Cox makes several interesting points in connection with these events. First, that the honoring the dead, especially the officers, served as a means of promoting the community. Second, that naming the dead in letters and journals served a similar purpose in honoring them. Officers would name fallen fellows, even if the man were not known to them personally. By the same token, enlisted men were rarely named, in order to preserve the social division between the two groups. The treatment and memorializing of the dead had its limits. Though the

men, predominantly the officers, in camp were almost always honored, prisoners were rarely that lucky.

Prisoners of war, again, were well-known for the poor treatment they received. In this chapter, Cox addresses the touchy subject of those who joined the British ranks while they were prisoners of war. She makes the case that these soldiers were not censured too harshly if they met certain conditions. These conditions included that they enlisted in order to escape confinement and intended to desert back to their own lines at the first opportunity.

Finally, while *Proper Sense of Honor* certainly illuminates new facets of the Continental Army, it does so at a cost. It moves far from the battlefield in its search for how the army functioned as a social institution. Certainly, armies are social institutions, and mirror the society that produces them. Armies, however, share one experience alien to the bulk of their respective societies, combat. This experience, horrendous as it is and always has been, molds the military establishment in ways foreign to the civilian society. This is a factor that should receive greater amplification in Caroline Cox’s work. Still, *A Proper Sense of Honor* remains a book well worth reading by anyone interested in eighteenth century armies in general and the Continental army in particular, simply because by placing the army in a cultural context it adds a number of dimensions often neglected by other historians.

**Caroline Cox *A Proper Sense of Honor Service and Sacrifice in George Washington’s Army*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2004. ISBN: 080782884.**

James Mc Intyre  
Moraine Valley Community College, Illinois ★

## Books for our smallest Patriots

“Those childish sand dunes washed away as the tide came in. This sand dune stayed where it had been raised. All those wheelbarrow loads, all that sand, had saved the powder magazine. All that sand had saved the fort.” About time an author lightened up on the logs and talked about the sand.

G. Walton Williams’ young children’s books, *The Palmetto Fort: A Young Volunteer in the Revolution, 1776* (2005) and *Of Mice and Bells* (2000) are packed with more than sand - crisp words, direct sentences, and simple line drawings help relate two Charles Town tales for the young. Illustrator John Kollock’s black and white drawings add much character to the pile.

*The Palmetto Fort* (63 small pages) weaves young Joshua Lockwood as a sand carrier into the historic 28 June 1776 victory on Sullivan’s Island. I know about this job since I carry and pound a lot of it for our editor. From town to country, Joshua’s tale is replete with authentic people (like newspaperman Peter Timothy at tower lookout) and genuine places (such as quarantine “buildings where the black people lived when first they arrived from Africa”). And though I find it refreshing to focus for a change on the perspective of a young army sand carrier, the story lacks patriotic zest and anecdotal creativity enough to hold a youngster’s attention. Joshua is there; but he is never quite part of the action, or so the reader feels. It is too dry for the littler ones and too naïve for the pre-teenagers.

*Of Mice and Bells* (63 small pages) scampers through the entire Revolution in Charles Town through the lives of some fearless church mice in their patriotic duty to recover the British-stolen bells and keep the church clean and presently active. These church mice – Biblically named Matthew, Melchisedec, and Mehitabel - suffer depredation during the British occupation in the form of scarce food, mercenary cats, few folks, and no melodious bell ringing. There is plenty of action, the young reader feels it, and the mice are right in it and making it happen. Transparent historic detail and historic events appear fluid enough without being the story: save the bells. Joshua’s

<sup>2</sup> For further discussion of the military literature employed in training the Continental army office corps, see: John Wright, “Notes on the Continental Army,” in *William and Mary Quarterly*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Series, 11 (1931) 83-85; Robert K. Wright, “Nor Is Their Standing Army to Be Despised: The Emergence of the Continental Army as a Military Institution,” in Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert, eds. *Arms and Independence: The Military Character of the American Revolution*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1984.

dog in the *Fort* and the patriotic, extended family of determined mice in *Bells* most caught the eye and imagination of my 5 year old son.

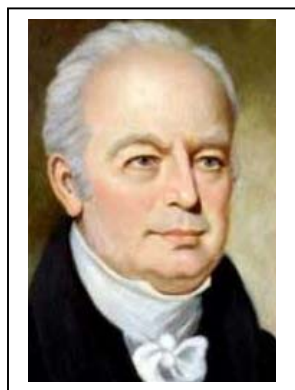
The sea has reclaimed the sand of the Sullivan's Island Revolutionary fort. But the tower and bells of St Michael's Church stand guardian to the sea. The sands of over 225 years have passed between the then of these stories and the now. We almost take for granted the liberty saved between. "The sand will give strength to the logs, supporting them from behind; and cannon balls that manage to go through or between the logs will be stopped by the sand." So there, Gen. Lincoln! John Rutledge, you were right, hold that fort! I would rate *The Palmetto Fort* a "6" and *Of Mice* a "9" out of 10. Both available from The Barksdale House Press, 1 Tradd Street, Charleston SC 29401. Either way, author Williams performs his duty to help impart the virtue of and some of the responsible character of liberty to our youngest generation. Huzza!

Reviewed by **David Paul Reuwer** after numerous nightly readings to his son, Luke. ★

## South Carolina's Supreme Court Nominee Rejected

by **David Paul Reuwer**

"Is it not better that I should sacrifice one prized opinion than that all of us should sacrifice everything we might otherwise gain?" This



query of personal compromise was posited by a great South Carolina leader as he was instrumental in drafting and framing the final Constitution of the United States. He is one of the 55 signers. This same document now comes into the forefront of public opinion and the public arena with the Presidential nomination of and Senatorial approval of our next Supreme Court justice. South Carolina's prominent attorney (at age 21), legislator, patriot, state president, governor, U.S. Congressman, jurist, husband,

father of ten children, original United States Supreme Court associate justice (at age 50), and second Chief Justice was also rejected by the U.S. Senate. Many Carolinians today know little of his spectacular and indefatigable contributions to the jurisprudence, and indeed existence, of our State. John Rutledge (1739-1800) exhibited those attractive leadership qualities: intelligence, industry, bold courage, noble conviction, civility, and pragmatic compromise. Today's legal leaders would do well to revisit with him.

At the commencement of the Revolution he was by successive elections a member of Congress. He was elected president (1776-78) and commander-in-chief of South Carolina, in conformity to the new constitution established in 1776. "General Lee wishes you to evacuate the fort. You will not do it without an order from me. I would sooner cut off my hand than write one," wrote Rutledge to General Moultrie who commanded Sullivan's Island shortly before the action of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. The troops which Carolina had raised before Congress had declared independence, remained subject to the authority of the State. President Rutledge helped prevent the evacuation of the fort on Sullivan's Island and pushed toward its victory over the British fleet.

In 1778 he resigned the office of president after unsuccessfully vetoing the State's new frame of government that he viewed as irrevocably separating South Carolina from Britain. However, at the

next election he was reinstated in the executive authority of the State, under the newest constitution, with the title of governor (1779-82) substituted in the place of president.

Ceaselessly active during the Revolutionary War, Rutledge made South Carolina government work in day-by-day affairs, if often by the seat of his saddle and post riders. A state government taken for granted generally today, we fail to appreciate the austere hardships, struggling difficulties and overwhelming hopelessness endured by John Rutledge throughout the bloody, partisan civil war in South Carolina of 1780-82. During this time he acted under broad powers granted to him by the most recent legislature before the capture of Charleston in May 1780; the "virtual embodiment" of civil government in South Carolina. He worked well with others on political and military matters as diverse as supplies, impressments, prisoner affairs, bank subscriptions, commanders, prize and plunder, military intelligence, debating Black slave regiments, election writs, council and assembly concerns, recruiting and enlistments, suspicious persons, and State security. Of particular note is Rutledge's amnesty proclamation (27 September 1781) issued for South Carolinians who had fought for the British, adhered to the British cause in some ways, or who were then in hiding, with numerous exceptions. Those who wished to be pardoned must surrender to a brigadier general of militia within 30 days and do active duty as Carolina militia privates for six months following their surrender. Rutledge offered them the choice "to return to their allegiance" and "be restored to the favor of their country" or "to abandon their properties in this State forever and go with their wives and children whither, for what purpose, on whom to depend, or how to submit they know not, most probably to experience in some strange and distant land all the miseries and horrors of beggary, sickness and despair." Gibbes, *Documentary History*, Vol. 3. Many Loyalists took the amnesty and reconciled good service under Patriot commands.

"To his government during the war in South Carolina, is to be attributed in a great degree the successful termination to which it was brought. He possessed a quick penetration, and soon perceived the superior merit of Greene, Sumter, Marion, and Pickens, whose operations he seconded with great energy and skill. Although invested with dictatorial powers, he never gave occasion for complaint, and retained the confidence of the patriots to the end" wrote James Marshall in *The United States Manual of Biography and History*. Philadelphia: James B. Smith & Co., 1856.

Rutledge served in Congress until 1783 and again in the State Assembly from 1783 to 1790. In 1784 he was elected Chancellor of the Court of Chancery in South Carolina, carrying enormous weight of judicial decisions of first impression.

"The people will think we are leaning too much towards monarchy," he declared in holding that the chief executive should not appoint the federal judges; this from the man known in the Revolution as "Dictator John". Rutledge chaired South Carolina's delegation to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 where he defended states' rights but championed a national government. Rutledge influenced other delegates from the start of the Convention, such as when his proposal to conduct the sessions behind closed doors and submit all of the members to an oath of secrecy was accepted by all the delegates. His activity and purposeful persuasion continued throughout the Convention, where he served on five committees and chaired the essential Committee on Detail that set the agenda of the meetings. He attended all sessions, speaking often and effectively, taking a nationalist position while supporting the social and economic interests of the southern states. He was against establishing any national tribunal except a single supreme one; a new set of federal courts would be duplicative of existing state courts and too expensive. Still, Rutledge employed his eloquence and trial lawyer's skills in persuasion of his constituents at home for ratification of the

national Constitution and “the reasons of what has been done.” In speaking of founding patriots such as Rutledge, James Madison writes in Federalist Paper Number 14: “They accomplished a revolution which has no parallel in the annals of human society. They reared the fabrics of governments which have no model on the face of the globe.”

The final phase of his public career saw him in high judicial positions. First, Rutledge served as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court (1789-91) and then as chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court (1791-95). He was nominated by Washington and commissioned 1 July 1795 to replace Chief Justice John Jay, both Jay and Rutledge having served together in the first Continental Congress (1774). He was sworn in as the second Chief Justice of the United States on 12 August and presided at the fall term of the Supreme Court of six men as an interim appointee, through 15 December. His name appears on at least two decisions of that term. He would recognize the white quill pens still placed on counsel tables each day that the Court sits but the more colorful colonial black robes with salmon or red facing have given way to all black. Rutledge spoke publicly against the Jay Treaty that aroused the ire of his fellow Federalists who controlled the Senate. Caught in an early politicization and factioning that enfeebles the nomination process, the Senate (December 1795) refused to confirm Washington’s appointment of Rutledge because of his vehement opposition and attacks on Jay’s 1794 Treaty with Great Britain. The Senate apparently also refused to confirm him because of his recurring illness and possible suicide attempt following the death of his wife in 1792. This illness may have effectively ended his public career. More lasting than his decisions are his concerned commitment to an abiding sense of justice for all.

Next time you are in Charleston, stand and see his 1763 town home at 116 Broad Street, a National Historic Landmark. More importantly, at this timely national judiciary juncture, let us recall John Rutledge’s life and resonate ourselves with the principles by which he governed and for which he stood. His life articulated the sanctity of law in our land.

**David Paul Reuwer** practices law and historic preservation in Camden, where he serves as president of the Kershaw County Bar. [Davidreuwer3@aol.com](mailto:Davidreuwer3@aol.com) ★

## Palmetto Conservation Foundation Awarded Battle of Eutaw Springs Study Grant

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service has awarded to the Palmetto Conservation Foundation (PCF) to fund work at the Eutaw Springs Battlefield. Eutaw Springs is located in Orangeburg County, SC on the southern shore of Lake Marion. On September 8, 1781 Gen. Nathaniel Greene’s Patriot force of 2,098 attacked the British army of 2,300 commanded by Col. Alexander Stuart at the springs. While revisionist have called the battle was a draw, Gen. Greene’s victory pushed the British from the midlands of South Carolina to Ferguson’s Swamp, near Moncks Corner, and concentrated the British army in Charleston and which left Greene’s army free to challenge Lord Cornwallis, if he retreated southward from Virginia.

These grant funds follow on work by David P. Reuwer, principal investigator, in the initial ABPP Eutaw Springs Battlefield survey completed in 2003.

Currently, there are only 2.6 acres protected as the Eutaw Springs Battlefield Park. This grant will allow PCF to develop a strategic plan to guide future decisions and preservation policies of the 550 acre battlefield area. Baseline research will document the history,

location, and present condition of the entire site. PCF will also establish an advisory council of historians, local leaders, landowners, and heritage tourism leaders to work toward implementing the strategic plan. ★

## Fort Motte Property on Market for Sale

The owners of the site of the recent archaeological investigations at Fort Motte have listed it for sale. This beautiful tract stands on a bluff, high above the Congaree River Swamp in Calhoun County, SC. The 205 acre parcel towers over the Congaree and Wateree Rivers swamps and gives a 15 mile vista. It is listed for sale at \$2.467 million. This site is not protected from development and SCAR hopes some civic-minded purchaser will consider a historic preservation easement. ★

## Monument Destroyed?



It has been reported to SCAR that vandals destroyed a stone monument reported to have commemorated Col. Thomas Brandon’s June 1780 defeat on the lower Fairforest Creek. This stone is located on the southeast side of Fairforest Creek near the modern SC Highway 49 bridge. SCAR would like to publish a photograph and the inscription on the monument if it was in fact a memorial. If you have a copy of the inscription, information or a photograph, please share it with SCAR. ★



Boy Scout Whitfield Marshall works at Hanging Rock.



## The Carolina Corsair Commodore Alexander Gillon

by John Jones

*This brief sketch is a general outline of a lengthy and complex subject. There is copious material on the lifetime and achievements of John Paul Jones. There is very little of the same about Alexander Gillon. I am hopeful of obtaining more detailed sources to provide more complete discussion of the man and his career. I plan to prepare a fuller picture of this remarkable individual with all his flaws. He deserves a broader exposure to a wider audience of interested and general readers. He was without question one of the major figures in South Carolina's role in the war for independence from Britain and in establishing a viable state once it was won.*

*The events as portrayed in this account are solely my own and I take full responsibility for their matter of presentation. Any errors of fact or otherwise are mine and are sincerely regretted.*

Commodore Alexander Gillon (the "Carolina Corsair"), Alexander Gillon, merchant and planter of South Carolina, should be rightfully recognized for his contribution to the cause of independence from Britain, a struggle won at great cost by America's victory in the Revolutionary War. An effort to rectify this oversight is in some measure to you a comparison of the careers of Gillon and John Paul Jones during the war and the period of the nation's beginning after. It is suggested that Gillon should be honored for his service, as has Jones.

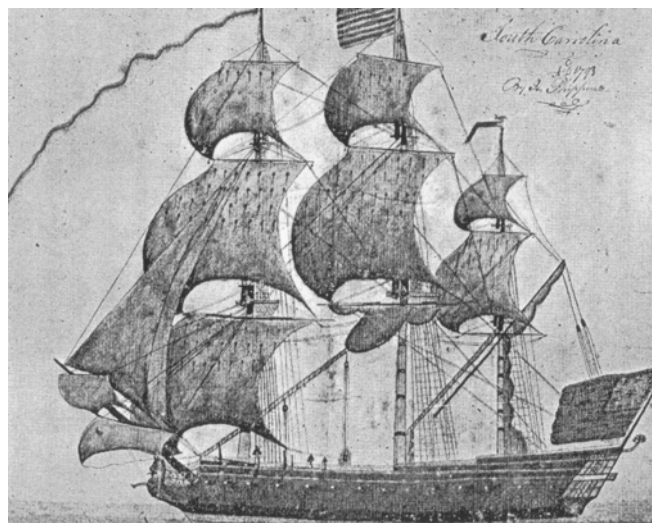
The connecting links for using this comparison are their wartime exploits at sea and they were natives of foreign lands. Jones was a Scot and Gillon was from Holland. Both fought for free America. Another similarity was that both had served as masters of merchant vessels when young men. They also had some shortcomings in their personal and official deportment. Unfortunately, Gillon's had been well aired and Jones' for all practical purposes have been downplayed and muted. One incident, however, did plague John Paul Jones the rest of his life. While master of a merchant ship anchored at Tobago, a disturbance among the crew at not being paid resulted in an incident of calamitous consequences. A seaman arrested Jones armed with a bludgeon and Jones ran him through with his sword. Fearing charges for killing the sailor, he fled the scene to the American colonies. He is reported to have said, "It was the greatest misfortune of my life." The matter was never resolved and he apparently feared trial in a civil rather than an admiralty court, the dead man being a native of Tobago. His move was likely the prudent one.

Gillon's personal traits and actions have been accounted in historical records with dealing with people. He possessed enormous self-confidence, exhibited an abundance of the better social graces, and was considered a model of manly peers and showed the aptitude for success in business ventures. These are the hallmarks of an individual that often arise animosities and are envied in all places and times. Added to the foregoing, was pushing his self interest to the brink and over the edge of acceptable customary practices. His brash manner of conducting business as observed by contemporaries was not dealing in accordance with observing the rules of the day. He was a swashbuckler in every sense of the term but was never convicted of wrongdoing; a man of action he was.

His service in the local Charleston militia is an example of how Gillon was apparently judged by the Charleston's gentry. It was their attitude that such an untutored and ill-bred man should not serve as an officer in the militia unit known as the German Fusiliers. He was its Captain.

To further illustrate reactions to Gillon, was his success in antagonizing the likes of Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, envoys of the rebel colonies to France and Holland, as well as John Paul

Jones. The last, America's greatest naval icon, was on close inspection himself no paragon of impeccable conduct both public and private.



**Frigate *South Carolina* from a watercolor in the Peabody Museum. (displacement 1,430 tonnes; length 170'; beam 43'3"; depth 16'6")**

Originally christened "*L'Indien*", a frigate built for the U.S. Commissioners in France, Benjamin Franklin, Silas Dean, and Arthur Lee, was laid down early in 1777 by a private shipyard in Amsterdam, Holland. Late in the year John Paul Jones sailed for France, hoping to assume command of *L'Indien*; but, before his arrival, financial difficulties and opposition from the still-neutral Dutch government, under pressure from Great Britain, had forced the Commissioners to sell the new frigate to the King of France.

For over two years the ship remained idle while several American and European agents schemed to obtain her. Finally, on May 30, 1780 the King of France granted her to the Duke of Luxembourg, who simultaneously chartered her to South Carolina, represented by Commodore Alexander Gillon of the South Carolina Navy. Gillon renamed the frigate *South Carolina*.

Subsequently, she took several prizes and led the combined United States-Spanish expedition that captured the Bahamas. British man-of-war *Astrea*, *Diomedé*, and *Quebec* captured *South Carolina* as she attempted to dash out of Philadelphia through the British blockade December 20, 1782.

Perhaps her greatest significance comes from the fact the marine architect Joshua Humphreys studied her sleek hull and used her lines in designing the U.S. Navy's first frigates, especially *Constitution* and *Constellation*.

The genesis of the Jones vs. Gillon intense rivalry was which of them would obtain the rights to the South Carolina navy ship of war. The situation as it developed made the contest ineffable. It was not likely to have been otherwise given the scarcity of ships. What is a reasonable answer to this conundrum? Where should Alexander Gillon standing in history be as to quality of service to America verses John Paul Jones?

Gillon was a man who succeeded in most of what he undertook. He was a master of a merchant vessel at an early age and he married well to a phosphorus widow. He started a thriving business as a merchant. He made shrewd investments in city real estate and plantation land. He participated in organizing and serving in the local militia showing his commitment to the defense of the chosen homeland. For this, he was ridiculed.

To give some context of the contrast between Alexander Gillon and John Paul Jones, it is useful to describe a touch of how 18<sup>th</sup> Century naval warfare was conducted and how it was approached by an America revolt against Britain. One practice was that naval officers and seamen of the colonials' navy shared in proceeds and prizes captured at sea. The Captain obviously received a major portion as was customary of the procedure of the time in other countries. Thus for serving officers, commanding a warship was as much a business proposition as a patriot duty and to some maybe it was more so.

John Paul Jones, the Palladio of the Continental Navy, arguably the most celebrated hero of war at sea for most Americans, blazed a lobbying campaign by personal contact and on paper for commanding ships and promoting his exploits at sea. In France, he proved a trial even for that master diplomat Benjamin Franklin.

In point of fact the American colonies had more qualified Captains vying for command than ships for them to command. The command of ships was fiercely sought and John Paul Jones was in the mist of the fray. Such was the situation of the Continental Navy.

South Carolina under the leadership of Rawlins Lowndes established its own navy. This was on paper only. The command of the proposed Navy was eagerly sought by Alexander Gillon, that very ambitious man. He was duly appointed Commodore of the South Carolina Navy.

Certainly qualified at seafaring, attested to by being a master of merchant ships at early age; however, war fighting at sea was another matter. He had volunteered to serve on the Connecticut ships, *Volant* and *Defense* which captured two privateers near Charleston. This leaves little doubt that Alexander Gillon was committed to personally taking an active role against the British foe. He put himself at the very forefront of the cause.

When the Commodore made the crossing to France and Holland to obtain ships for South Carolina's Navy, he was indelibly bound to cross swords in the case of the specific ship, the *South Carolina*, with none other than John Paul Jones. The ship at stake between the two contenders was *L'Indien*, later named *South Carolina*. She was owned by the Duke of Luxembourg who drove a hard bargain. The contract stipulated that the Duke would receive one-third share of all prizes captured nevertheless Gillon agreed to the stiff terms, got the ship and not Jones.

Gillon overcame other hurdles while enduring weather delay. He managed to resolve problems of personal debt and outfitting the newly acquired ship. He achieved this by pledging personal assets and obligations of South Carolina to cover the cost. This confused financial transaction, involving 10,000 pounds and naval stores for South Carolina, included Gillon, Continental Congress Agents, John Laurens, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams, left the latter two most displeased with the Commodore. With the matter not settled satisfactorily, Alexander Gillon sailed without the naval stores because of the Royal Navy threat in August 1781, much to the chagrin of Franklin and John Adams. Accordingly, he fell even lower in their esteem. The stores were successfully transported later.

John Paul Jones' fighting cruise around the British Isles climaxed with the death struggle between the *Bonhomme Richard* against the Royal Navy's *Serapis*. By this epic victory, Jones entered the annals of American national mythology. Its power transcends even the objective reality of this significant event. It lives on in the hearts of America today. On the other hand, what Alexander Gillon accomplished as Commodore of the South Carolina Navy in

command of the frigate *South Carolina* was no minor feat. It was belittled.

Under Gillon's command his ship and polyglot crew first captured three prizes in the North Sea. After sailing the Atlantic, he arrived in Havana with five sugar prizes. They followed up with aiding Spain in capturing the Bahamas Islands without a shot being fired. When the English were faced by the Spaniards and the Americans, they surrendered. These actions by any fair-minded individual appeared to be of some significance.

After the Revolution, Gillon joined backcountry South Carolina fashion to forge his successful political career. This maneuver further alienated him from the South Carolina low country grandees.

He went on to serve the people of South Carolina primarily as a State Legislator for the rest of his life. He gained the lasting support of the people he represented. If he had not, it is difficult to explain why he was elected except for two losses for his bid for office. When the balance between good and ill is struck, Alexander Gillon comes out well on the side of good. His achievements in the service of his adopted State and Country have to rank with the top of the America's founding generation. He staked his life a damaged fortune and it could be argued sacrificed his good name. He wagered on the outcome, and in retrospect, a considerably less than certain crusade with the Independence of America. He won the bet.

As to Paul John Jones, after the war he pursued prize money that was entangled in disputes with France and Denmark. He did gain some success in France but was embroiled in extensive wrangling with Denmark over the settlement of the prize questions there. Jones gave up the Danish matter and it was not settled until Congress stepped in and paid the heirs at taxpayers' expense. It was decades later.

Jones then journeyed to eagerly accept appointment as Rear Admiral in the Navy of Katharine the Great, Empress of the Russian Empire. She had solicited his expertise as a winning commander in warfare at sea. He took up a challenge. Jones mission was to assist the Russians in war against the Turks. In this he was imminently successful in leading the Russians at the Battle of the Liman and defeating the enemy. He was not given his due in winning this clash against this fleet of the formidable Turks. The appeal for credit was in vane. A major factor was an ill-advised encounter with a very young female under murky circumstances. This incident not surprisingly caused a great scandal. The Empress was outraged. John Paul Jones was virtually banished from Russia with the damaged reputation rather than covered with glory for defeating the Turkish menace.

Negotiating for prize money and mercenary military service does not fall within the general understood meaning of service to a cause for others but to oneself. However, as one of the ironies of his story, the mortal remains of John Paul Jones are entombed in the Chapel Crypt of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. He does deserve to be there despite some all-to-human flaws.

Using similar standards of judgment, Alexander Gillon deserves a goodly measure of remembrance for being a champion of freedom to South Carolina and America. He labored mightily to attain it in war and build it in peace. He is buried in an almost inaccessible cemetery located near the Congaree River at "Gillon's Retreat", the plantation he so cherished.

John Paul Jones is rightfully honored for his service to country despite his lapses of behavior less-than-expected of a national hero. So should Alexander Gillon be given equal consideration in recognition of his exemplary contribution to the founding of a great State and Nation. He has in common with most humans a less than always desired rectitude. He did contribute much to the military struggle for independence and in creating a viable State Government. We remember most notably his service as an effective State Legislator for the better part of two decades. Significant achievement was serving on the commission charged to

lay out the City of Columbia as the State Capitol and also as Commissioner for resolving public fiscal problems which rapidly brought State back to solvency which was critical for the State's welfare. Let Alexander Gillon be placed in his true place of honor as a brave patriot and a steadfast servant of the people of South Carolina and the Nation. He deserves no less.

**John Jones** (who claims no kinship to the illustrious John Paul Jones) is a retired USAF intelligence officer from Greer, South Carolina. He now resides in Sun City near Bluffton, SC. [jdjones@davtv.com](mailto:jdjones@davtv.com)

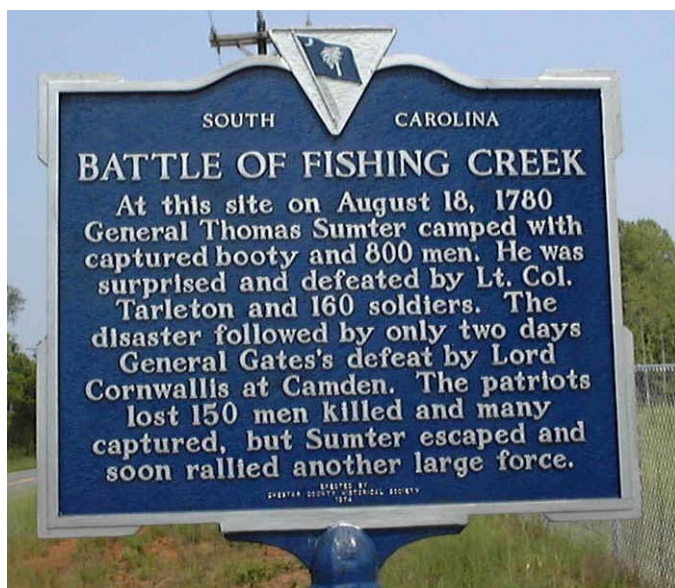
**Alexander Gillon**, a Representative from South Carolina; was born in Rotterdam, Holland, in 1741. He pursued an academic course; immigrated to London, England, and engaged in commerce; in 1766 settled in Charleston and established a large business. Gillon was elected a delegate to the Second Provincial Congress of South Carolina in 1775 and 1776; member of the first general assembly in 1776; was elected captain of the German Fusiliers of Charleston in May 1775. He was appointed Commodore of the South Carolina Navy in 1778 and was sent to France to procure vessels; joined the fleet of Spanish vessels in the capture of the Bahamas Islands on May 8, 1782. Gillon was elected to the Continental Congress in 1784, but did not attend; delegate to the State convention which ratified the Federal Constitution in 1788; served as Lt. Governor of South Carolina from 1789 to 1791; elected to the Third Congress and served from March 4, 1793, until his death at his plantation, "Gillon's Retreat," Orangeburg District, S.C., October 6, 1794; interment in the family burial ground at "Gillon's Retreat," Calhoun County, S.C. *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1771-Present*

#### For further reading:

*Neptune's Militia: The Frigate South Carolina during the American Revolution.* By James A. Lewis. (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1999. ISBN 0-87338-632-9.)

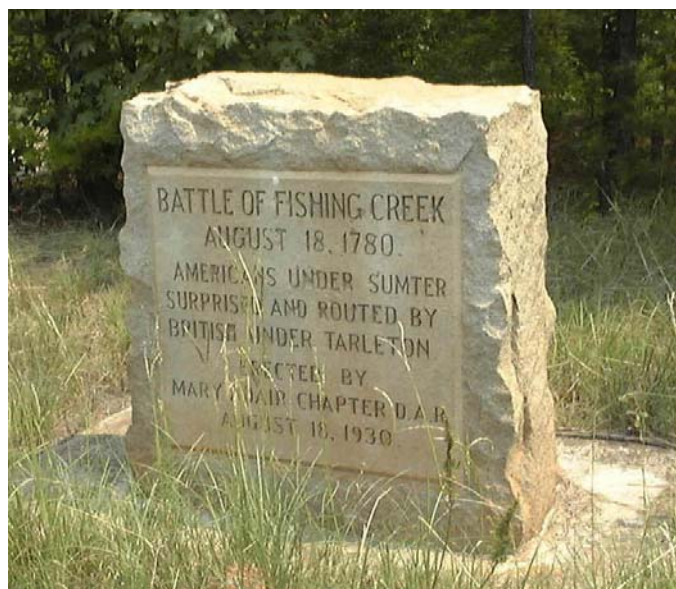
Gwin Lucy Groth, "Alexander Gillon, an Asset or a Liability to South Carolina" MA Thesis, Wake Forest University, 1972.

D. E. Huger Smith, "Commodore Alexander Gillon and the Frigate *South Carolina*." *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, 9 (October 1908), pp. 189-219. [German Fusileers] ★



**Roadside historic marker on US Highway 21 about three miles north of its intersection with SC Highway 200.**

## 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fishing Creek



**Granite marker at site of battle of Fishing Creek on US Highway 21, erected in 1930 by the Mary Adair Chapter of the DAR.**

## The Battle of Fishing Creek

by Michael C. Scoggins

Following their attack on the British outpost at Hanging Rock on 6 August 1780, Brigadier General Thomas Sumter and his Whig militia brigade returned to their camp at Land's Ford on the upper Catawba River. By this time Sumter's Brigade numbered some 500 to 600 men; in spite of their failure to take the British fort at Rocky Mount on the Catawba River on 30 July, the Whigs were greatly encouraged by their recent successes against British Provincials and Loyalist militia at Williamson's Plantation (Huck's Defeat) and Hanging Rock. Confident of his military prowess, Sumter began making plans to attack other British outposts further south along the Wateree and Santee Rivers. But Sumter was also aware that Major General Horatio Gates was marching down from North Carolina to attack the British troops at Camden with a combined force of Continentals from Maryland and Delaware, augmented by state troops and militia from North Carolina and Virginia. Sumter dispatched a messenger to locate Gates and present his plan for Gates' approval.

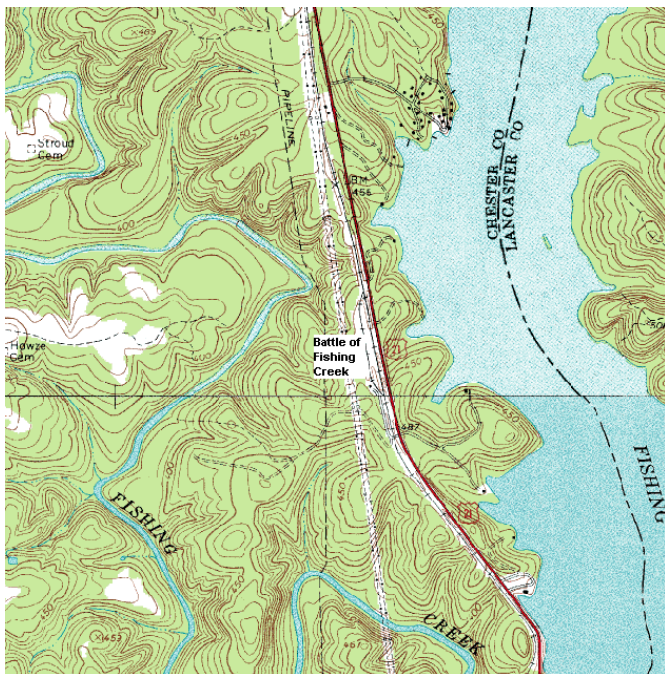
Gates and his army set up camp on Little Black Creek, in what is now northern Chesterfield County, on the evening of 7 August. Three days later Gates crossed Little Lynches Creek and began marching toward Rugeley's Mills, about twelve miles north of Camden. On 12 August Sumter wrote Gates, outlining his plan to establish control the Santee River passages from bases in the High Hills or at Nelson's Ferry, thus severing the British supply route from Charleston to Camden. Gates thought the plan had merit, and on 14 August he detached Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Woolford of the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment with 100 Maryland Continentals, 300 North Carolina militia, and two three-pound artillery pieces to reinforce Sumter. General Sumter continued down the Catawba and discovered that the British had abandoned their posts at Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock. After linking up with Gates' reinforcements, Sumter dispatched Woolford and Colonel Thomas Taylor, who commanded a militia regiment from the lower District between the Broad and Catawba Rivers (now Richland County), to attack Cary's Fort, a small Loyalist redoubt on the west side of the Wateree Ferry commanded by Colonel James Cary. Taylor and Woolford took the



fort with little trouble on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, capturing Colonel Cary and his 30-man garrison along with 36 supply wagons containing food, clothing, and rum. As Taylor prepared to leave the area that afternoon he intercepted a British supply train on its way from Fort Ninety Six to Camden, and captured 50 light infantry, six wagons loaded with supplies and baggage, and over 300 head of cattle and sheep.

Cols. Taylor and Woolford moved back up the Wateree and rejoined Sumter on the evening of 15 August. Later that night British troops began crossing the river below the fort with the intention of retaking their prisoners and supplies, causing Sumter to abandon his position and begin retreating back up the Wateree. As he advanced up the west side of the river on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Sumter and his men heard the unmistakable sounds of cannon fire coming from the direction of Camden. Continuing slowly up the Rocky Mount Road, Sumter received an express later that day informing him that General Gates had been totally defeated by Lord Charles Cornwallis and his British army near Camden. Their progress slowed by prisoners, supply wagons, and cattle, Sumter's men and horses were already weary from their forced march in the oppressive August heat. Unwilling to abandon his hard-won plunder and prisoners, Sumter continued his march up the Wateree and arrived back at Rocky Mount on the evening of 17 August, where his exhausted men made camp for the night.

Unknown to the Americans, local Tories had informed the victorious Lord Cornwallis that Sumter and his men were retreating back up toward the Catawba. On the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Cornwallis ordered his cavalry commander, Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton, to set off in pursuit of Sumter. On the morning of 17 August, Tarleton set out with 350 dragoons and infantrymen of the British Legion and a three-pound field piece. Moving up the east side of the Wateree, Tarleton reached the Rocky Mount ferry that evening. From across the river Tarleton could see Sumter's campfires; in order to preserve the element of surprise, Tarleton and his men camped without fires.



**USGS 7.5 minute map Fort Lawn quadrant, area just north of Great Falls, SC. The red line is modern US Highway 21 that in this area follows a narrow high ridgeline between Fishing Creek and the Catawba River. SCAR has not confirmed from recovered artifacts the exact location of the Patriots camp and ensuing battle. Your assistance is requested.**

Sumter and his men set out from Rocky Mount on the morning of 18 August, moving slowly up the west bank of the Catawba. After crossing Fishing Creek, Sumter halted and set up camp just north of the confluence of Fishing Creek and the Catawba, near the present site of the Fishing Creek Boat Landing off Highway 21 (about two miles north of Great Falls, South Carolina). The officers posted a few vedettes on the road just above the creek, but none of the Whigs really expected any trouble. Badly in need of rest and refreshment, the militia and Continentals stacked their arms and fell out. Some men began cooking food, while others lay down to rest; some plunged into the river, enjoying the coolness of the water, while others broke out the captured rum and began to get drunk. Sumter removed his hat, coat and boots and lay down in the shade underneath a wagon to sleep.<sup>3</sup>

Meanwhile the Tarleton and his men continued to advance on the unsuspecting Whigs. Tarleton's first-hand account of the battle, as published in his 1787 memoirs, is unequalled in providing the details of the British attack on Sumter's position:

*Some of the British vedettes and sentries reported at dawn that they could discover the rear guard of the enemy quitting Rocky mount. Tarleton instantly detached Captain [Charles] Campbell, of the light infantry, with a small party across the river, with instructions to hold out a white handkerchief on Rocky mount, if Colonel Sumpter continued his route up the Wateree: In the mean time, preparations were made for passing the river: Captain Campbell, on his arrival at Rocky mount, took a prisoner, and displayed the appointed signal: The boats, with the three-pounder and the infantry, immediately pushed off, and the cavalry crossed the part which was not fordable by swimming...When Tarleton arrived at Fishing creek at twelve o'clock, he found the greatest part of his command overpowered by fatigue; the corps could no longer be moved forwards in a compact and serviceable state: He therefore determined to separate the cavalry and infantry most able to bear farther hardship, to follow the enemy, whilst the remainder, with the three-pounder, took post on an advantageous piece of ground, in order to refresh themselves, and cover the retreat in case of accident.*

*The number selected to continue the pursuit did not exceed one hundred legion dragoons and sixty foot soldiers: The light infantry furnished a great proportion of the latter. This detachment moved forwards with great circumspection: No intelligence, except the recent tracks upon the road, occurred for five miles. Two of the enemy's vedettes, who were concealed behind some bushes, fired upon the advanced guard as it entered a valley and killed a dragoon of the legion: A circumstance which irritated the foremost of his comrades to such a degree, that they dispatched the two Americans with their sabres before Lieutenant-colonel Tarleton could interpose, or any information be obtained respecting Colonel Sumpter. A serjeant and four men of the British legion soon afterwards approached the summit of the neighbouring eminence, where instantly halting, they crouched upon their horses, and made a signal to their commanding officer. Tarleton rode forwards to the advanced guard, and plainly discovered over the crest of the hill the front of the American camp, perfectly quiet, and not the least alarmed by the fire*

<sup>3</sup> Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America* (London: T. Cadell, 1787; reprinted North Stratford, NH: Ayer Company, 1999), 96-102, 110-111; Elizabeth F. Ellet, *The Women of the American Revolution*, Vol. III (New York: Charles Scribner, 1854), 390-396; Robert D. Bass, *Gamecock: The Life and Times of General Thomas Sumter* (Orangeburg: Sandlapper Publishing, 1961), 74-75, 77-79, 80-84; Mark M. Boatner III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 1994), 162-163, 368-369, 1171-1172. Note that Boatner, on page 368, erroneously places Fishing Creek in North Carolina. Fishing Creek begins in eastern York County, SC and enters the Catawba River in southeastern Chester County, SC.

of the vedettes. The decision, and the preparation for the attack, were momentary. The cavalry and infantry were formed into one line, and, giving a general shout, advanced to the charge. The arms and artillery of the continentals were secured before the men could be assembled: Universal consternation immediately ensued throughout the camp; some opposition was, however, made from behind the waggons, in front of the militia. The numbers, and extensive encampment of the enemy, occasioned several conflicts before the action was decided. At length, the release of the [British] regulars and the loyal militia, who were confined in the rear of the Americans, enabled Lieutenant-colonel Tarleton to stop the slaughter, and place guards over the prisoners....

Captain Charles Campbell, who commanded the light infantry, was unfortunately killed near the end of the affair. His death cannot be mentioned without regret. He was a young officer, whose conduct and abilities afforded the most flattering prospect that he would be an honour to his country. The loss, otherwise, on the side of the British was inconsiderable; fifteen non-commissioned officers and men, and twenty horses, were killed and wounded.

Colonel Sumpter, who had taken off part of his clothes on account of the heat of the weather, in that situation, amidst the general confusion, made his escape: One hundred and fifty of his officers and soldiers were killed and wounded; ten continental officers and one hundred men, many militia officers, and upwards of two hundred privates, were made prisoners; two three-pounders, two ammunition waggons, one thousand stand of arms, forty-four carriages, loaded with baggage, rum, and other stores, fell into the possession of the British.

The position occupied by the Americans was eligible and advantageous; but the supposed distance of the King's troops occasioned a negligence in their look out, and lulled them into fatal security. Some explanation, however, received after the action, greatly diminished the mistakes which Colonel Sumpter seemed to have committed: It appeared upon inquiry that he had sent patrols to examine the road towards Rocky mount; but, fortunately for the British, they had not proceeded far enough to discover their approach: It was evident likewise that he had demanded the cause of the two shots, and that an officer just returned from the advanced sentries had reported, that the militia were firing at cattle: A common practice in the American camp. In one word, the indefatigable perseverance of the British light troops obtained them a most brilliant advantage when their hopes and strength were nearly exhausted. The wounded being dressed, and the arms and prisoners being collected, the legion and light infantry commenced their march towards Camden. The three following days finished their toilsome duty, when their services were rewarded by the approbation of Earl Cornwallis, and the acclamations of their fellow soldiers.<sup>4</sup>

Tarleton's brief notation that "some opposition was made from behind the waggons, in front of the militia," deserves further explanation. Although many of Sumter's men were caught empty handed and were either cut down or fled in all directions, some of the Continentals and militia did put up a stiff resistance. In particular, the South Carolina militia commanded by Colonel Edward Lacey, from the upper District between the Broad and Catawba Rivers (present-day Chester County), and Captain John Moffett, from the New Acquisition (now York County), were responsible for many, if not most, of Tarleton's casualties.<sup>5</sup>

Another eyewitness account of the battle was provided by one of Sumter's militiamen, Private James Potter Collins of the New Acquisition District. Collins was only sixteen years old when he

joined the militia company commanded by Captain (later Colonel) John Moffett in June 1780, and he was with Moffett's company at the Battle of Fishing Creek, which the Whigs later referred to as "Sumpter's Surprise." Collins recalled the battle in his own memoirs, which were published in 1859:

*In order to save ourselves a little longer, it was determined to join Sumpter, below, but we jumped out of the frying pan into the fire; we met Sumpter retreating rapidly; we joined in the retreat until we came to Fishing Creek, a place where it was thought we could halt in safety, and rest, but not so. Sumpter encamped on the main road, near the creek; we were encamped a short distance above, on his left, where another road crossed the creek; there was a guard or picket posted at a short distance in the rear; the men were all fatigued; some had kindled fires and were cooking and eating; others tumbled down and were fast asleep, and all scattered in every direction. We had drawn some provisions, and forage for our horses, and were engaged in about the same way, with, however, but few asleep. Our horses were mostly close at hand, and but few saddles off; all at once the picket guns gave the alarm—they retreated on the main body with the enemy at their heels. Before Sumpter could wake up his men and form, the enemy were among them cutting down everything in their way. Sumpter, with all the men he had collected, retreated across the creek at the main road, leaving the remainder to the mercy of the enemy. It was a perfect rout, and an indiscriminate slaughter. No quarter was given; we were preparing in all haste to secure our own safety. The greater part of our number dashed through the creek, at the fording place, and pushing on with all possible speed, reached the highland. After we had gotten fairly to the top of the hill, we halted. No enemy appeared, and we remained quiet for some time, waiting for some of our men, who were missing; but no tidings—no one, neither friend or foe appearing. There had been but little firing, except the pistols of the enemy, and all seemed to be silent. At length a few blasts of the bugle brought some of our men in sight, who in their hurry had missed the fording place, and had gone up the creek where they found it difficult to pass, and were looking for our trail. Near sunset, a few more came up, but there were still some missing, of whom we could hear nothing. We then left the road, keeping a high, open ridge and went off some distance; night coming on, we dismounted in the woods and tied our horses; we had nothing for man or beast to eat, and the weather being warm, (August,) we kindled no fires. We lay down, every man with his sword by his side, his gun in his hands, and his pistol near his head. All were silent, for we expected the whole army had been taken prisoners, or put to the sword.<sup>6</sup>*

A different perspective on the battle comes from Major Thomas Taylor, the son of Colonel Thomas Taylor of Sumter's Brigade, who described what happened to his father and some of the other men who were taken prisoner by the British. The noted Revolutionary War historian Lyman C. Draper interviewed Major Taylor at his home in De Soto Parish, Louisiana in 1871,<sup>7</sup> and took the following notes from Taylor's recollection of his father's experiences:

*Col. Taylor always said, that they could easily have defeated Tarleton's cavalry—Sumter's force was amply sufficient, by planting the artillery in the road, & repelling & driving back the enemy. That Sumter said all was safe—there was no danger. Major [Charles] Myddleton was the only guard on duty—Tarleton's dash into camp was too sudden, Myddleton had only time to make his escape, &*

<sup>4</sup> Tarleton, 111-116.

<sup>5</sup> Ellet, 394-395; Lyman C. Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes* (Cincinnati: P. G. Thomson, 1881; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967), 465; Bass, 83-84. Draper is mistaken in his statement that John Moffett lived in Chester County, SC; he actually lived in York County.

<sup>6</sup> James P. Collins, *Autobiography of A Revolutionary Soldier*, ed. John M. Roberts (Clinton, LA: Feliciana Democrat, 1859; reprinted New York: Arno Press, 1979), 41-43.

<sup>7</sup> Sandra Howell, *Calendar of the Thomas Sumter Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts*, Calendar Series Volume V, Publications of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1986), 279-280.



perhaps give the alarm to Sumter & a few others. Taylor had pulled off one boot, preparing to take a rest—when Tarleton appeared (& perhaps headed the little resistance that was made)—there were thick briar patches around, which enabled some of the Americans to dodge among & escape before the cavalymen could ride around & intercept them. Col. Taylor soon received a sword cut, some four inches across his head, by a cavalryman, & having nothing to fight with, fell, playing possum—the first and only time in his life, he said—pretending he was dead: when he was stripped of his boots & everything except his shirt, pants or drawers. He was struck by Capt. Mc\_\_\_\_.<sup>8</sup> When unnoticed as he lay beside a mud hole, he managed to besmear his face with blood & mud, so as to be unrecognizable, as an officer; as he had reason to fear the British if they discovered who he was would hang him. He sought his opportunity & joined the prisoners huddled together—none of whom recognized him.

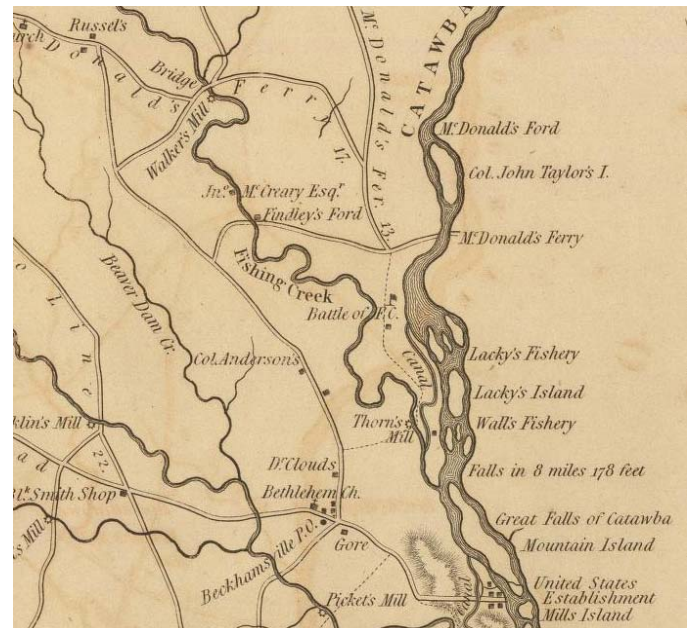
The British had captured Henry Hampton, in uniform—had stripped him of nearly all his clothing—had pinioned his hands behind him, having the rope fastened around his neck, & fastened to a cavalry horse beside him. The prisoners were placed between two lines of Tarleton's cavalry, horse & tail, & marched along towards Camden. Seeing Hampton, Col. Th<sup>s</sup>. Taylor whispered to him, & arranged for an attempt to escape. Neither had a knife—so Taylor knowing that one of his soldiers, a tanner by trade, among the prisoners, had one, slipped up to him, and asked him for it, who not recognizing his colonel in his disguised condition, & fearing the British might blame him for compliance, at first refused. When Taylor looking piercingly in the eye said, in a sudden earnest tone, “Dare you disobey your Colonel?” When the soldier promptly replied: “Beg your pardon, Sir, here it is.” Taylor quietly placed the knife in Hampton's right hand—then getting dark, who first cut his hands loose, & then severed the rope from his neck, but held on to it, so as not to be discovered, & seeing a good place, Taylor pushed Hampton between the horses, & both dashed into the woods, expecting to be shot at—Hampton particularly lamenting that he had been stripped of coat, & jacket, his white shirt would render him a conspicuous mark for the British marksmen—while Taylor had no such fears for himself, as the blood & mud had given his few remaining garments quite another color. But as it was getting dark, & screened by the woods & brush, & not immediately missed, they were not shot at. They knew the country, & made good their escape, evading the Tory settlements, & soon rejoined Sumter's re-organized little army.<sup>9</sup>

In the hours immediately following Gates' Defeat at Camden and Sumter's Defeat at Fishing Creek in August 1780, Lord Cornwallis and the British army had every reason to believe that they had put an end to armed resistance in South Carolina for good. Lord Cornwallis had only a short time for celebration after Sumter's defeat at Fishing Creek as messengers arrived telling a very different story of a Patriot victory over the redcoats under Col. Alexander Innes at Musgroves Mill the next morning. As events would bear out over the course of the next six months, the American resistance to the British occupation of South Carolina was far from finished. Following this low point in the American Revolution, the Georgia and Carolinas militias and State Troops won back country victories in South

<sup>8</sup> Assuming that Taylor's memory was correct, this could be a reference to either Captain Charles McDonald or Captain Donald McPherson of the British Legion. Although both men commanded companies of British Legion infantry, they were probably mounted during the attack at Fishing Creek, and could have been mistaken for cavalymen. McDonald, in fact, commanded forty mounted British Legion infantrymen during the Battle of Hanging Rock. See Tarleton, 95, and Murtie June Clark, *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1981), II: 213-221.

<sup>9</sup> Lyman C. Draper, notes of interview with Major Thomas Taylor, 22 May 1871, in Thomas Sumter Papers, Draper Manuscript Collection., 16VV27-30.

Carolina at Kings Mountain, Fish Dam Ford, and Blackstock's Plantation, and in coordination with Continentals at Rugeley's Fort, Hammond's Store and Cowpens. Instead of destroying the rebels, the defeats at Camden and Fishing Creek only made these rebels stronger and more determined.



**Excerpt from Mills Atlas of the Chester District, 1825; the modern Great Falls dam is located at “Falls in 8 miles 178 feet”, just upstream of the mouth of Fishing Creek and creates the Fishing Creek Reservoir. ★**



**British Legion Dragoon at Williamson's Plantation.**



**Reenactment of Huck's Defeat at Historic Brattonsville.**



## Battles of Hanging Rock - 225th Observance

by Robert M. “Bert” Dunkerly  
and photos by Bob Bowen

Hanging Rock, two miles south of Heath Springs, SC, is an important landmark and as well as a very historic site. The battle of Hanging Rock, fought August 6, 1780 (actually the *second* battle there), was important for many reasons. This fierce engagement pitted over 1,000 Loyalists against roughly 600 American militia. It gave Patriot Gen. Thomas Sumter his reputation for boldness and action, and accelerated the movement to stop the British spread across the state. Hanging Rock would probably be more famous if it were not for Camden, one of the largest battles of the Southern Campaign, fought just fifteen miles down the road and two weeks later. The 225th Anniversary is an excellent occasion to draw attention to this often overlooked battle.



**The Hanging Rock and DAR Memorial, winter 2005, prior to Whitfield Marshall's Eagle Scout Project.**



**Hanging Rock by Lossing (drawn looking south).**

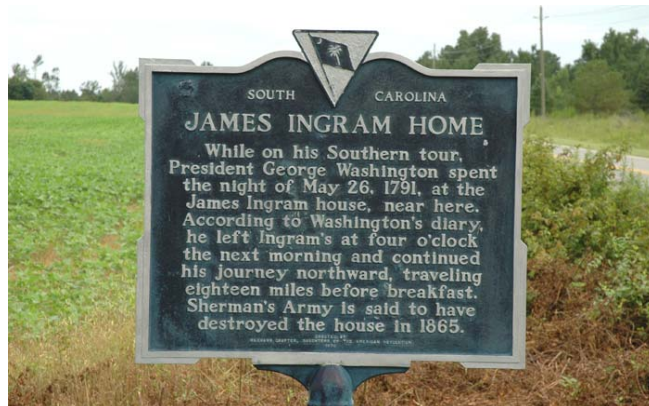
Located just a few miles south of Heath Springs, the Hanging Rock is large formation of boulders, the largest of which is the famous Hanging Rock. The rock forms a natural shelter large enough for many men to conveniently camp underneath. The high ground just west of these boulders was the site of a Loyalist garrison set up in the summer of 1780. Thus the battle was not actually fought at the rocks, but on the high ground nearby.

As British forces fanned out across the state after the fall of Charleston, Carolinians who remained loyal to the king rose up and

organized militias. These forces were joined by Loyalists from the northern colonies and British regulars. Lord Charles Cornwallis oversaw the establishment of garrisons at strategic locations like Camden, Ninety Six, Orangeburg, Georgetown, Rocky Mount, and Hanging Rock.

It is difficult to estimate numbers, but the post at Hanging Rock had somewhat over 1,000 men, all Loyalists. Under the command of Maj. John Carden, the garrison consisted of a detachment from the Prince of Wales Regiment, infantry from the British Legion, Mecklenburg County Loyalists under Col. Samuel Bryan, and Camden District Loyalists under Col. Henry Rugeley.

The camp was over half a mile long, and spread across an open clearing on high ground along the wagon road. At the northern edge of the camp, overlooking Hanging Rock Creek, was Bryan's camp. Below them, clustered around the James Ingram House, were the Provincial troops of the Prince of Wales and British Legion. Two three pound guns stood here.<sup>1</sup>



**James Ingram House roadside marker on the Flat Rock Road (Old Great Waxhaw Road) near the British post at Hanging Rock and the second Battle of Hanging Rock.**

American militia had been active in the region. On July 30th Gen. Thomas Sumter attacked and nearly captured Rocky Mount. The same day militia under Maj. William R. Davie raided the northern part of the Hanging Rock post, capturing horses and supplies. These militias had united, now Sumter intended to attack the entire garrison.

Recent rains made the Catawba River difficult to cross. Sumter wrote that, "The Rapidity of the current was So Great I was not only much delayed, but Met with Considerable Loss; however, proceeded on." The American forces included about 500 militia from the York, Chester, Ninety Six, and Camden Districts, along with about 100 Mecklenburg County militia. A small number of Georgia refugees and nearly forty Catawba Indians also joined them.<sup>2</sup>

The Americans were ill-supplied. Some men had no arms, and many were using leaves for musket wadding. Among the soldiers riding south was a thirteen year old who was going to see his first battle: Andrew Jackson, future seventh president of the United States. During the fighting Andrew held the horses while his brother Robin went up the hill with in the attack.<sup>3</sup>

The Americans approached the post from the north, and intended to attack the camp simultaneously from two directions. The guides became lost, however, and at dawn on the 6th, the forces of Sumter and Davie all fell on Bryan's camp. Major Joseph McJunkin wrote that Sumter, "Having marched all night... . . . and having divided his men into three battalions, he made a bold charge into the British camp about sunrise." Bear in mind that none of these troops had uniforms: here, as was common in this civil war, American fought American. Sumter's and Davie's forces soon overwhelmed Bryan and pushed his disorganized men back to the main camp.<sup>4</sup>

At this point the battle raged back and forth, with many incidents too numerous to cover here. The Americans and Loyalists



each launched attacks and counter-attacks. Loyalist casualties mounted heavily, and they apparently soon lost enthusiasm for their bayonet charges. At one point Col. William Hill, who was wounded here, wrote that the Loyalists "... fell so fast ... their officers were obliged to push them forward by their sabers." Disheartened, Carden turned over command to another officer.<sup>5</sup>

The fighting raged for about four hours, significant since the more famous battles like Cowpens, Kings Mountain, and Camden were each only an hour. Heat, exhaustion, and low ammunition began to take their toll. Loyalist reinforcements also arrived, two companies of dragoons from the British Legion. The Loyalists formed a defensive position known as a hollow square on high ground south of their camp. With sweat pouring, throats parched, and muskets too hot to hold, both sides paused.<sup>6</sup>

At this point discipline began to break down in the American ranks. Troops began looting the camp, at first for weapons and ammunition, but soon British rum was discovered. Sumter knew he had to pull back, calling to his men, "Boys, it is good not to pursue a victory too far!" Davie wrote that, "As the troops were loaded with plunder, and encumbered with wounded friends, and many intoxicated, the retreat was not performed in the best military style."<sup>7</sup>

As the Americans pulled back, the Loyalists shouted three cheers for King George, which the Americans answered with three for George Washington. It had been a sharp contest. The Loyalists lost about 270 men, Sumter probably 100. The Prince of Wales Regiment suffered nearly 50% casualties, extremely high losses.<sup>8</sup>

Although technically a draw, Hanging Rock did demonstrate Sumter's tenacity and showed that while South Carolina was open to occupation, controlling the countryside would not be easy. Sumter himself wrote that "Both British and Tories are pannick struck." Tarleton observed of Sumter that, "The repulses he has sustained did not discourage him or injure his cause. . . his reputation for activity and courage was fully established by his late enterprising conduct."<sup>9</sup>

From here Sumter would go on to lead more attacks, and rally the militia of both Carolinas. Hanging Rock was one of his most important, and his first, major attack. At the time both sides awaited the approach of General Horatio Gates and his newly formed Southern Army. The American disaster at Camden just two weeks later overshadowed the fight at Hanging Rock.

The site has a long and rich history. Early settlers and travelers noted it, making it an important local landmark. Two Revolutionary battles occurred here. Andrew Jackson was probably a frequent visitor, both before and after the Revolution. In 1791, on his Presidential Tour, George Washington rode through the center of it, and stayed at the Ingram House. Washington no doubt looked over the battlefield, as he loved to visit battle sites whenever he could. In 1865, the Union Army under General William T. Sherman camped here on their way from Columbia to Cheraw.

Today Andrew Jackson State Park preserves about 260 acres of land that includes the rock formation, but none of the battle site. The Hanging Rock battlefield is fortunately still in pristine condition, but only 25 acres of the ground that saw fighting is preserved. Today it is easy to discern the hills and open fields that made this an ideal place for a camp. It is hoped that the 225th Anniversary will foster interest in this site and its preservation and interpretation.

On Saturday, August 6th, Andrew Jackson State Park organized a commemoration of this long neglected battle. The park has recently reopened its museum with brand new exhibits on the Revolution in the Waxhaw region. A local boy scout, Whitfield Marshall, cleared the trails at the Hanging Rock site and improved the landscaping around the DAR Monument. The park organized a public presentation on the battle with three speakers, followed by a wreath laying ceremony and battlefield tour. Anyone interested in Hanging Rock and the battles fought there is encouraged to contact the park ([www.discoversouthcarolina.com](http://www.discoversouthcarolina.com); 803-285-3344).



**Interpretative Ranger Laura Ledford of Andrew Jackson State Park gives presentation.**



**Robert "Bert" Dunkerly, author and interpretive ranger at Kings Mountain National Military Park, speaks on the Battle of Hanging Rock.**



**Bob Bowen places Virginia SAR wreath at the Hanging Rock memorial site.**

The British Legion could distinguish itself as capable of sustaining and giving assaults like a conventional eighteenth-century line regiment...On August 6, 1780, in the heat of fierce battle, 160 Legion infantry charged an enemy force three times as strong. Anthony J. Scotti, Jr. *Brutal Virtue*, p. 78 describing their resistance at the 2d Battle of Hanging Rock.





**Keith Brown of the Catawba Nation presents on Gen. New River and his Catawba allied patriots.**

“When fighting commenced between Britain and the colonies in 1775, the Catawbias were in no position to play off one side against the other: they were few in number, their region was dominated by patriots, and the British were nowhere in sight. Their choice was not who to support – it had to be the rebels – but whether to give that support vigorously or begrudgingly...

“In July of 1775 Joseph Kershaw, a storekeeper-turned-colonel, announced that the Catawbias were “heartily in our interest.” Later that year they formed into a company under the command of a white captain, Samuel Boykin, and in February of 1776 thirty-four Catawbias saw their first action: hunting down runaway slaves. On June 28 Boykin’s company helped in the successful defense of Charleston, then in July and August they served as scouts in the war against the Cherokees...in 1779 the Catawbias ventured into Georgia to help fight against the British, who had just taken Savannah.

“In 1780 the Catawba reservation became a focal point of rebel resistance, with Gen. Thomas Sumter commanding 500 troops – mostly white, some Native American. Catawba men fought side-by-side with other patriots at Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, and Fishing Creek, but they had to retreat after the British victory at nearby Camden. Men, women, and children abandoned the reservation and fled north to Virginia...

“Catawbias continued to serve until the end: they fought in the battles at Guilford Courthouse, Haw River, and Eutaw Springs. At the close of the war Catawbias helped raid maroon communities of runaway slaves. A payroll dated June 21, 1783, lists forty-one Catawba Indians who received between \$5 and \$49 apiece, depending on their length of service; other men not mentioned were known to have fought at other times. In proportion to the size of their community, the Catawbias’ contribution to the patriots’ cause was outstanding. And in the spirit of the times, they changed the title of their leader from “king” to “general”.”

Ray Raphael, *A People’s History of the American Revolution*, 2001, Perennial (HarperCollins).

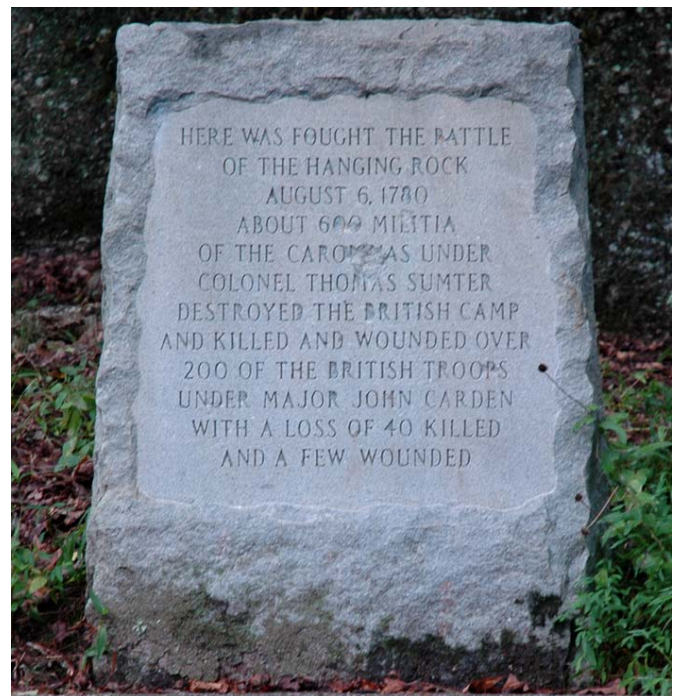
**DPR ★**



**Kirk Johnson, manager Andrew Jackson State Park.**

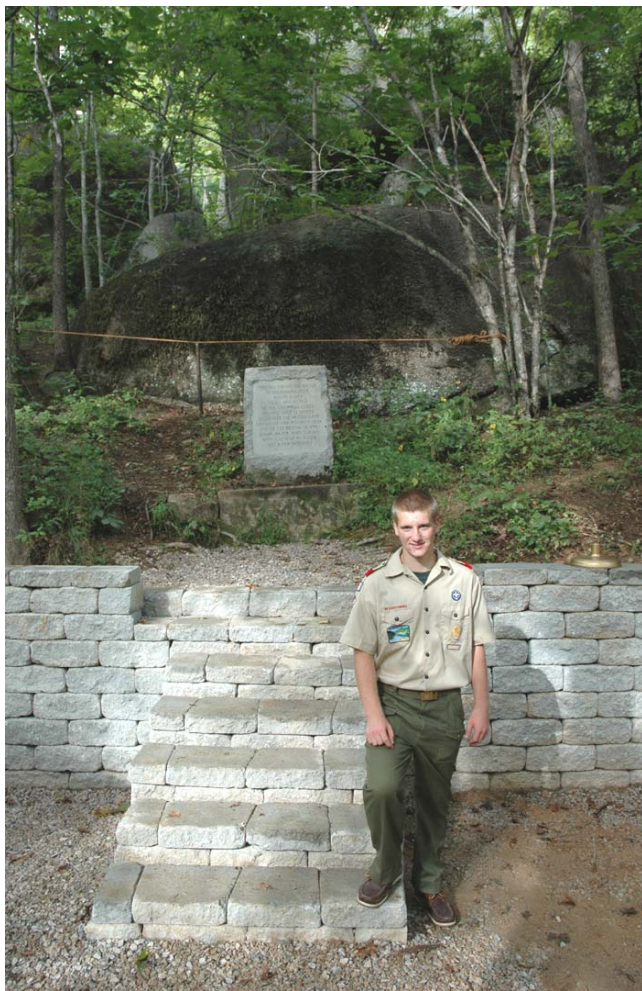


**Ranger Laura Ledford and a Patriot’s solemn salute at the Commemorative Ceremony at Hanging Rock.**



**DAR monument at Hanging Rock, with modern battle scars, placed by the Waxhaw Chapter DAR in 1948. The monument is not actually located on either Hanging Rock Battlefield.**





**Life Scout Whitfield Marshall of Boy Scout Troop 71 stands in front of new retaining wall and steps he and friends completed for his Eagle Scout award project. Hanging Rock in the background. Marshall designed and had the project approved, raised the funds, recruited and organized the volunteer labor and completed the installation of improvements and stabilization prior to the public ceremonies in August 2005.**

Wreaths Placed by the descendents of Walker; Waxhaw Chapter DAR; Catawba Chapter DAR; SAR Color Guard – In honor of Gen. Francis Marion; Catawba Valley, NC – SAR; Virginia SAR; Friends of Andrew Jackson State Park; Buford High School, Lancaster, SC – JROTC; and Descendants of William Richardson Davie.

**Sponsors:** Andrew Jackson State Park; Lancaster County Historical Commission; Lancaster County Society for Historic Preservation; and Friends of Andrew Jackson State Park.

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## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup>Robert Latham, *Historical Sketches of the Revolutionary War in the Upcountry of South Carolina*. Sharon, SC: Broad River Basin Historical Society, 1998, 26.
- <sup>2</sup>Sumter; James Saye, *Memoirs of Major Joseph McJunkin*. Spartanburg: A Press, Inc., 1981, 14; James Merrill, *The Indians' New World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989, 219-20.
- <sup>3</sup>A.S. Salley, *Col. William Hill's Memoirs of the Revolution*. Columbia: The State Company, 1921, 12.
- <sup>4</sup>Hendrick Boraem, *Young Hickory*. Dallas, TX: Taylor Trade, 2001, 64; Saye, 14; Salley, 12.
- <sup>5</sup>Robert Bass, *Gamecock*. Orangeburg, SC: Sandlapper, 2000, 70; Salley, 13.
- <sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, 70-1.
- <sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>8</sup>Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America*. North Stratford, NH: Ayer Co. Inc., 1999, 95.
- <sup>9</sup>Sumter, Tarleton, 96.



**Anvil Rock, about 2 miles southwest of Heath Springs, SC, on SC 522 sketched by Benson J. Lossing in his *Pictorial Field-Book of the American Revolution*.**



**Anvil Rock as drawn by Benson J. Lossing in 1847 on his trip from Rocky Mount to Hanging Rock. ★**

